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GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Prorogation and Opening of Parliament

THE QUEEN'S PROROGATION SPEECH

The Queen's speech on the prorogation of Parliament, summarising the work of the session,[1] was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord Chancellor on 13 November, and read to the House of Commons by the Speaker (*Hansard*, cols 1629-34). The text of the speech, with *Survey of Current Affairs* coverage in parentheses, is as follows:

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

It was with great pleasure that My husband and I visited Bermuda, Barbados, the Bahamas, Mexico (see p 147), *Jamaica, Hong Kong and Japan* (see p 234). *We were very pleased to welcome to this country King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.*

My Government welcomed Papua New Guinea's decision to join the Commonwealth on independence (see p 397).

I was pleased to be in Kingston for the important and useful meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government (see pp 184-91). *Since then good progress has been made in pursuing the far-reaching proposals on world trade in commodities which My Government put forward at that meeting.*

My Government have participated fully in the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly which continued its efforts to promote a more just world economic order (see pp 391-6).

My Government successfully renegotiated the terms of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Economic Community (see pp 136-44). *Their recommendation for continued membership was confirmed by the British people in the Referendum* (see p 227). *They have made an important contribution to the evolution of Community policies, particularly those concerning its relations with the rest of the world.*

My Government have made a major contribution to the development of détente *between East and West and warmly welcome the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe* (see pp 305-12). *Particular efforts have been made to improve bilateral relations and economic co-operation with the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe* (see pp 96-8 and 396-7).

My Ministers played a constructive role in the Geneva Conference which reviewed the operation of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Following a searching review, and after consultation with our Allies, My Government have announced reductions in our defence commitments and forces (see pp 131-6).

In Rhodesia My Government have sought to bring all sides to an agreement by negotiation (see p 267).

My Government have continued to seek a political solution to the tragic situation facing the people of Northern Ireland. The Constitutional Convention set up to consider what provision for the government of Northern Ireland is likely to command the most widespread acceptance has recently completed its report (see p 428). *Legislative provision has been made to improve the standards of benefits in Northern Ireland in social security and other fields* (see p 130). *The shipbuilders Harland and Wolff have been taken into public ownership* (see p 157).

My Armed Forces and the Royal Ulster Constabulary have continued to perform their difficult duties in Northern Ireland with devotion and with considerable success. An Act has been passed, to come into full effect when reciprocal legislation has been passed in the Republic of Ireland, to enable courts in Northern Ireland to try persons accused of serious crimes of violence in the Republic of Ireland (see pp 88-9). *Following the recommendations of the Gardiner Committee, legislation has been enacted to deal with terrorism in Northern Ireland* (see pp 256-7). *Legislation has also been enacted for the prevention of terrorism in the United Kingdom* (see pp 456-7, 1974).

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown (see pp 91-2) *and for the public services.*

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

My Government made clear their determination to reduce the rate of inflation (see pp 269-72 and 318-21). *In agreement with the General Council of the Trades Union Congress they initiated measures for securing a voluntary flat rate limit on pay increases. The programme of subsidies on basic foods has been continued, to keep down prices paid by consumers* (see pp 164-6, 1974 and 71-2, 269). *Grants are being made to encourage the provision*

[1] The life of a Parliament (a maximum of five years) is divided into sessions, each normally, though not necessarily, lasting a year and terminated by prorogation.

of information and help to consumers, by the setting up of consumer advice centres and other means (see p 360). *A National Consumer Council has been established and measures to protect consumers have been passed* (see pp 72-3).

Measures have been taken to stimulate the development of efficient and profitable industry, and of industrial democracy (see p 321). *An Act has been passed to establish a National Enterprise Board to provide for public participation and partnership in industry* (see pp 104-6). *A system of planning agreements is also being set up* (see pp 105 and 356). *Development Agencies are being established to pursue similar objectives of economic development and to improve the environment in Scotland and Wales* (see pp 106-7). *As part of their programme of industrial support, legislation was passed for My Government to acquire shares in the British Leyland Motor Corporation* (see p 261).

My Government have taken major steps to regulate the production of off-shore petroleum and to ensure that a fair share of the profits accrues to the community. Legislation has been enacted to establish a British National Oil Corporation (see p 201); *to provide for the acquisition and reinstatement of oil sites in Scotland* (see p 130); *to regulate the provision of refinery capacity and the construction and use of submarine pipe-lines* (see p 201); *to impose a new tax on the profits from United Kingdom petroleum production* (see pp 102-3); *and to close certain loop-holes in the taxation of oil companies* (see pp 280 and 475-6, 1974 and 197). *Measures have also been announced for protecting our off-shore interests in peacetime. Legislation has been enacted to permit easier access by the National Coal Board to coal resources* (see p 387).

My Government have published a White Paper setting out guidelines and objectives for domestic agriculture and food production to 1980 (see pp 211-12).

My Government have made clear their intention of using the taxation system to promote greater social and economic equality by the redistribution of wealth as well as income (see pp 319-20, 1974 and 198). *A comprehensive capital transfer tax on property in place of the estate duty has been introduced* (see pp 318-9, 1974 and 154-5). *Measures have also been introduced to end abuses arising from the 'Lump'* (see p 197).

Legislation has been passed to protect and extend the rights of employees and to establish the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service on a statutory basis (see pp 212-15).

The Health and Safety Commission and Executive have been established to secure the health, safety and welfare of persons at work (see p 42).

Over the past year My Government have taken positive steps to alleviate unemployment and to meet the longer-term need for skilled manpower (see pp 409-10). *They have provided for expansion of the training programmes of the Manpower Services Commission and of industry, and for a job creation scheme to be administered by the Commission. The Employment Services have been strengthened, and a temporary employment subsidy and a recruitment subsidy for unemployed school leavers have been introduced* (see p 409).

An Act has been passed to provide a new and improved earnings related pension scheme to operate in partnership with good occupational pensions schemes (see pp 162-3). *Measures have also been enacted to increase social security benefits and contributions* (see pp 163 and 243-6); *to make additional provision for the disabled* (see pp 163 and 246); *and to provide for a system of universal child benefits* (see p 244).

The law on adoption and custody has been reformed and further provisions made for ensuring the welfare of children in care (see pp 286-7).

Legislation has been enacted to enable My Government to contribute towards the National Coal Board's scheme for compensating existing pneumoconiosis sufferers (see p 387).

My Government have encouraged the abolition of selection in secondary education and made further progress towards a fully comprehensive system (see p 76). *Steps have been taken to bring to an end the systems of direct-grant schools in England and Wales and grant-aided schools in Scotland* (see p 376). *Financial aid to voluntary schools has been increased and the arrangements for mandatory student awards extended* (see pp 492-3, 1974).

A substantial increase has been achieved in the provision of new housing, and significant progress has been made towards the stabilisation of mortgage funds (see pp 77-8). *Legislation passed on housing rents and subsidies has restored freedom to local authorities to fix their own reasonable rents* (see pp 494-5, 1974).

Legislation has been passed to enable land suitable for development to be brought into public ownership, so that the community may exercise positive control over the development of land and may enjoy increases in land values arising from its own efforts (see pp 181-3).

Legislation has been passed to protect policy-holders of insurance companies which are unable to meet their liabilities, and to establish the Air Travel Reserve Fund (see pp 109-10).

Discrimination on grounds of sex has been made unlawful (see pp 165-7).

Acts have been passed to provide for the safety of spectators at football and other sports grounds (see p 388), *and to facilitate the promotion of lotteries by local authorities, sporting, charitable and cultural organisations* (see p 387).

The Limitation Act and other measures have furthered the progress of law reform, and new arrangements have been made for the administration of criminal justice in Scotland (see pp 128-9).

Financial provision has been made to assist Opposition parties in carrying out their Parliamentary duties (see pp 6 and 170).

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that the blessings of Almighty God may attend you.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Queen's Speech on the opening of the new session of Parliament[1] on 19 November outlined the

[1] The second session of the forty-seventh Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Government's policies and programme for the coming session (*House of Commons Hansard*, cols 4-9). The text is as follows:

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

My husband and I look forward with great pleasure to visiting Finland; and also to our visit to the United States of America to celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of American independence. I am confident that the long-standing friendship and co-operation between our peoples will continue to flourish. We shall also visit Canada where I shall open the Olympic Games.

My Government will maintain their firm support for the United Nations and the principles of its Charter, and for the Commonwealth with its tradition of concern for the equitable distribution of the world's resources and the promotion of mutual international understanding and co-operation. They will vigorously pursue their initiative for better order in world trade in commodities which they launched at the recent meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government, and which has made an important contribution to subsequent international discussion. They recognise the special needs of the poorest developing countries, and will in particular seek to assist rural development and food production.

My Government will play their full part in the European Economic Community, devoting particular attention to the achievement of a common approach to the world's political and economic problems.

My Government will also maintain their full support of international efforts to restore economic activity, and to reduce inflation and imbalances of payments. They intend to ratify the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Financial Support Fund Agreement.

My Government will continue to work for international agreement on general disarmament and on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. They will sustain their support for the North Atlantic Alliance as an instrument of détente *as well as defence, fostering the fullest possible co-operation amongst its members, not least in the procurement of defence equipment. They will continue to play their full part in the negotiations on force reductions in Central Europe.*

My Ministers will continue also to place great value on further détente *between East and West, including the strengthening of economic links, and of full implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.*

My Ministers will continue to support the search for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, and to develop our ties with the countries of the area. They will continue to co-operate in seeking a lasting settlement in Cyprus.

My Government will maintain their efforts to bring about a just and peaceful constitutional settlement in Rhodesia.

My Government will actively protect the interests of the fishing industry, and will play their full part in international conservation measures and in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy. They are seeking renewed arrangements for British fishing with the Government of Iceland to replace those which have just expired.

My Government will continue to strive for a constitutional solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. They will maintain determined efforts to eliminate terrorism, and attach particular importance to dealing through the courts with all those responsible for violence. A Bill to promote equality of opportunity in employment between people of different religious beliefs will be reintroduced, and legislative provision will be made to assist industrial development by enlarging the role of the Northern Ireland Finance Corporation.

Members of the House of Commons:

Estimates for the public service will be laid before you.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

My Government will continue to give the highest priority to the attack on inflation and unemployment. Success for the wide range of anti-inflation measures introduced in July is essential for the future health of our economy and our society. In particular, success in these measures is required for the achievement of a satisfactory level of productive investment and to assist in the reduction of the present unacceptable level of unemployment. It is also a necessary condition for the fulfilment of many of My Government's other economic and social objectives. The present price controls will continue to be vigorously enforced, and the programme of price display and unit pricing will be accelerated. A programme of price stabilisation of more essential goods will be introduced once cost increases decline. My Ministers will continue to work closely with the Trades Union Congress, the Confederation of British Industry and with the British people as a whole on a continuing programme to control domestic inflation and to prevent its resurgence.

The National Enterprise Board and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies will be major instruments in My Government's policy of industrial regeneration. My Government will also embark on a series of Planning Agreements with large companies in selected key sectors of industry, as an important step towards the identification and achievement of agreed national objectives. The Bill to bring the aircraft and shipbuilding industries into public ownership will be reintroduced early in the Session.

Following their review of civil aviation, My Government will present proposals to implement the necessary policy changes.

My Government will reintroduce legislation to remove the remaining unsatisfactory features of the Industrial Relations Act 1971.

My Ministers will continue to encourage the development of industrial democracy in both public and private sectors. Both sides of industry will have full opportunity to express their views to the inquiry, which My Government have announced their intention to establish, to consider how industrial democracy in the private sector can best be extended.

A Bill will be introduced to ensure comprehensive employment safeguards for dockworkers.

My Government will play their full part in the development and improvement of the Common

Agricultural Policy and will continue to encourage the maximum economic production of food at home in the interests of producers and consumers.

Legislation will be introduced to meet the United Kingdom's obligations under the Agreement on an International Energy Programme; to control energy supplies during any shortage; and to implement energy conservation policies.

My Government will continue to seek to secure the orderly development of the United Kingdom's off-shore oil and gas resources in the interests of the nation. They intend to invite applications for further licences for the exploration and development of off-shore oil and gas.

My Government will bring forward legislative proposals for the establishment of Scottish and Welsh Assemblies to exercise wide governmental responsibilities within the framework of the United Kingdom.

Proposals will be put forward for a major review of the practice and procedure of Parliament.

An opportunity will be provided to decide on a permanent system for the sound broadcasting of the proceedings of Parliament.

My Ministers will pursue vigorously their programmes of social reform by legislative and other means, within available resources. They will take energetic action to encourage the provision of more houses in both public and private sectors; and following from a comprehensive review they will bring forward recommendations for future housing finance policy. Legislation will be brought forward to enable housing to be transferred from New Town Development Corporations and the New Towns Commission to elected local authorities. Legislation for the abolition of the agricultural tied cottage system in England and Wales will be laid before you.

In furtherance of My Government's comprehensive policy for development land, legislation will be introduced for a development land tax.

Legislation will be introduced in the course of the session to phase out private practice from National Health Service hospitals. Consultations will continue on My Government's proposals to strengthen and extend existing powers to regulate nursing homes and hospitals outside the National Health Service. Pensions and other social security benefits will be increased to protect the living standards of the most vulnerable members of the community.

In education, My Government will seek to consolidate the improvements they have made to the statutory school system. Within available resources, they will give priority to children with special needs and to the vocational preparation of young people aged 16 to 19. A Bill will be introduced to require local education authorities in England and Wales who have not already done so to make plans for the abolition of selection in secondary education, and to deal with certain other matters.

Legislation will be laid before you to extend and improve Post Office banking services, and to reform the Trustee Savings Banks and enable them to offer a wider range of personal banking services, including personal loans to depositors.

A Bill will be introduced to strengthen the law on racial discrimination. Proposals will be prepared to amend the Official Secrets Acts and to liberalise the practice relating to official information.

A Bill will be introduced to provide an effective independent element in the procedure for handling complaints by members of the public against the police.

My Government will give early consideration to the report, when received, of the Law Commission on the law of conspiracy in England and Wales, with a view to preparing legislation for the comprehensive reform of this branch of the law.

Legislation will be introduced to replace the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1974.

My Government will persevere with efforts to improve the law and the administration of justice, and will pay continued attention to the need to reduce the number of persons in prison, especially those awaiting trial or sentence.

Proposals will be placed before you to provide a Public Lending Right for authors.

Measures will be introduced relating to Scotland, including reforms in the law on crofting and on liquor licensing, and proposals for improving public access to freshwater fishing. A Bill will be introduced to establish a Development Board for Rural Wales.

Other measures will be laid before you.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

Ministerial Appointments

Several ministerial changes were announced by the Prime Minister's Office on 4 December. They are as follows (previous ministerial offices are given in brackets):

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Goronwy-Roberts (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office)

Minister of State, Department of Energy
Mr John Smith, MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy)

Minister of State, Department of Industry
Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy
Lord Lovell-Davis (Lord in Waiting)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment
Mr Kenneth Marks, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State, Department of Industry
Lord Melchett (Lord in Waiting)
Mr Neil Carmichael, MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment)

Baroness in Waiting
Lady Stedman

Assistant Whip[1]
Mr Peter Snape, MP

[1] This appointment was announced on 20 November.

Lord Balogh and Lord Beswick (formerly Ministers of State at the Department of Energy and the Department of Industry respectively) have resigned from the Government, Lord Balogh on reaching the age of 70, and Lord Beswick since he is to be appointed Chairman of the Organising Committee for British Aerospace[1] (and in due course Chairman of the Board of British Aerospace). Lord Goronwy-Roberts will be Deputy Leader of the House of Lords in succession to Lord Beswick.

Mr John Smith will have special responsibility within the Department of Energy, under the Secretary of State (Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn), for the execution of the North Sea oil operation as a whole.

Mr Peter Snape succeeds Miss Betty Boothroyd as an Assistant Whip in the House of Commons; Miss Boothroyd has resigned from the Government because of her commitments as a member of the delegation to the European Assembly (see pp 262-3).

For a complete list of United Kingdom Government ministers see pages 258-61 and 387.

Devolution to Scotland and Wales

Elected assemblies in Scotland and Wales responsible for a very wide range of domestic affairs are being proposed by the United Kingdom Government. Within the wider continuing framework of the United Kingdom, the Government believes that they will give closer democratic control over many of the increasingly complex processes of modern administration, and will help to foster the distinctive Scottish and Welsh national traditions which are widely valued as part of the country's common heritage.

The proposed changes, contained in a White Paper, *Our Changing Democracy: Devolution to Scotland and Wales,* published on 27 November,[2] are the most fundamental of their kind for centuries in the areas concerned. They follow the report in 1973 of the Royal Commission on the Constitution (the 'Kilbrandon Commission' – see pp 433-7 1973), which found evidence in both Scotland and Wales of a need and a real desire for a greater transfer of powers from London, and an earlier White Paper, *Democracy and Devolution: Proposals for Scotland and Wales,* which set out the broad outlines of the present plans (see pp 367-8, 1974). The Government fully endorses the Royal Commission's rejection of both separatism (the idea of dividing the country into independent states) and federalism (the creation of states within the country sharing sovereignty with the central Parliament), believing that the maintenance of the United Kingom's political and economic unity is essential to further the interests of all its citizens wherever they may live.

The Government is anxious to encourage full public discussion of its proposals. Draft legislation is to be published in the spring of 1976, although it will not be feasible for plans of such lasting constitutional importance to become law in the current session of Parliament. In the light of public debate, the proposals will be refined and reintroduced in Parliament in the autumn of 1976, at the start of the 1976-77 session.

The Government has been holding discussions on the devolution of powers to the regions of England, and is shortly to publish a consultative document to provide a basis for consideration of possible future regional arrangements. For historical and geographical reasons, and because of the presence of two separate communities in the province, governmental arrangements for Northern Ireland are seen as a separate issue.

The Main Proposals

The planned assemblies will control policies and spending over a very wide field of domestic topics. The Government has decided in favour of devolution wherever possible. It has retained subjects on a United Kingdom basis, or made exceptions within subjects otherwise devolved, only in order to avoid damaging the country's basic unity or affecting fundamental rights of United Kingdom citizenship, and to ensure uniformity for reasons such as safety or the maintenance of a fair and consistent framework for industry and commerce.

In broad terms the subjects to be devolved to the assemblies are as follows:

Local Government: responsibility for most aspects of local government administration (including in Scotland local government structure); and some aspects of local finance, including the amount and distribution of grant to support the 'rates' (a form of local property tax).

Health: the structure and operation of the National Health Service; policy on such matters as private practice and family planning; and general matters such as the prevention and notification of infectious diseases.

Social Services: the care and support of children, the handicapped and the elderly; and supervision of the standards of private provision in these fields, and grants to voluntary bodies.

Education: the state school system, including its structure, standards and attendance requirements; policy for private schools and nursery education; further and higher education (but not the universities or the research councils); adult education; youth and community services; national and local libraries and museums; and the arts.

Housing: the provision of public housing; public sector housing finance; subsidies to local authorities and housing associations; and rent control in the public and private sectors.

Physical Planning and the Environment: land use and development; protection of countryside amenity and landscape; most executive aspects of the community land scheme (see p 181); environmental improvement and rehabilitation of derelict land; all the environmental functions of the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies (see pp 106-7); water, river management, drainage and flooding measures and sewerage (special arrangements are

[1] The organising body for the public corporation, British Aerospace, described in the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill, published on 2 December; HMSO, £1.25, ISBN 0 10 300876 4.

[2] Cmnd 634 . HMSO, 95p. ISBN 0 10 163480 3.

needed to take account of the cross-border nature of the water service in Wales); new towns; building regulations and design and construction standards; refuse collection and disposal; and (in Wales) national parks.

Roads and Transport: the planning and construction of roads; road traffic management and (in Wales) bilingual traffic signs; road service licensing; local transport planning; bus and shipping services operated by the Scottish Transport Group; payment of bus grants and bus fuel duty rebate; subsidies for Scottish internal air and shipping services; airports; and inland waterways.

Economic Development and Natural Resources: all the environmental functions of the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies; factory building (subject to certain controls); the Highlands and Islands Development Board (again subject to certain controls); most forestry matters; management of agricultural estates, smallholdings and (in Scotland) crofting; agricultural landlord-tenant relationships; and improvement of fisheries harbours (in Scotland) and freshwater fisheries.

Tourism: full responsibility, subject to the retention by the British Tourist Authority of overseas promotion functions.

Miscellaneous Matters: including fire services; shop hours; betting, gaming and lotteries; liquor licensing in Scotland; and the fixing of public holidays and summer time.

The Scottish assembly will also be able to make new laws or amend existing legislation within its own fields, and will be responsible for most private law in Scotland, the general criminal law and the treatment of offenders. The Government has not yet decided whether to propose that responsibility for the Scottish courts should be devolved.

All subjects not devolved to the Scottish and Welsh administrations will be reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament and Government. Within those subjects, however, new responsibilities are to be decentralised to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales (the senior ministers in the United Kingdom Government at present responsible for a wide range of Scottish and Welsh administration).

Ultimate sovereignty is not being transferred, either to Scotland or to Wales. The United Kingdom Parliament will retain all its existing sovereign powers over all matters in order to preserve the essential unity of the country as a whole. In keeping with this position, the Government will be able to step in if it thinks that some action of the Scottish or Welsh administrations will have seriously adverse consequences for non-devolved subjects (such as defence) or for the people of the United Kingdom as a whole. These general procedures for intervening are not intended for frequent use; they will exist in the background as reserve powers; and they permit wider devolution than would otherwise be possible. Their use will require the specific agreement of Parliament.

The United Kingdom economy will continue to be managed as one unit, with all contributing through the tax system according to their means and for the benefit of all. Economic unity means that the Government will not only manage the nation's external economic relationships, but will be able to manage demand in the economy as a whole – to control national taxation, total public expenditure and the supply of money and credit. It will also be able to regulate the framework of trade, so as to maintain a fair competitive balance for industry and commerce everywhere. Any new and artificial barriers within this long-established 'common market' throughout the United Kingdom could, in the Government's view, be seriously damaging. The Government also believes that it must keep the task of devising national policies to benefit particular parts of the country and of distributing resources among them according to relative need. Accordingly, North Sea oil, for instance, is regarded as a source of revenue for the whole of the United Kingdom; Scotland will receive a fair share of these revenues in keeping with its needs.

The Government will remain solely responsible for all international relations, including relations with the European Community, but, as European Community and other international business touches increasingly on matters which will be dealt with by the Scottish and Welsh administrations, their views will be taken into account. This will be done by consultation between the Government and the two administrations. The Government will also be able to delegate to the administrations the implementation of European Community or other international obligations in fields for which they are responsible.

The Assemblies

Scotland: The plans are for a single chamber assembly which will assume the task of making domestic laws for Scotland. It will remain constitutionally subordinate to the United Kingdom Parliament, and will not be free to change the devolution settlement.

Membership of the assembly will be on the same basis as membership of Parliament or a local authority, with members elected by a simple majority for a geographical area. For the first election there will be 142 members – two for each of the 71 parliamentary constituencies in Scotland – and each elector will have two votes. The two-member constituencies are necessary for the first elections because there will not be time before then for the Scottish Boundary Commission to draw up appropriate single-member constituencies. For later elections there will be single-member constituencies, parliamentary constituencies being divided for the purpose into one, two or three assembly constituencies according to a formula based on the average size of parliamentary electorates in Scotland. Each elector will then have one vote, as in normal local and parliamentary elections. This system will give about 138 members on present electorates.

Everyone entitled to vote in parliamentary elections, plus members of the House of Lords, will be able to vote in assembly elections. Each assembly term will be for a fixed four-year period.

Pay and allowances for assembly members will initially be fixed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, but, once in operation, the assembly itself will be responsible for these matters.

Within its own fields the Scottish assembly will generally take over from Parliament the task of

passing legislation. It will become responsible for existing law in these areas, and will be able to add to, amend or repeal it.

Certain essential stages of legislative procedure in the assembly will be laid down, but the assembly will be able to expand on these arrangements by means of its own standing orders.

When the assembly is considering a Bill, it will carry out its own checks to see that the Bill falls within the powers given by the devolution legislation. The Secretary of State may be consulted on this informally. When passed, a Bill will go to the Secretary of State who will then examine it formally to ensure that it is within the assembly's powers. In the ordinary course he will then submit the Bill for Royal Assent.

The Government has not decided whether the law courts should have jurisdiction to declare at the instance of a litigant that legislation passed by the assembly goes outside the powers conferred by the devolution Act.

Since Parliament is retaining ultimate authority in all matters, it will still be able to legislate for Scotland in the devolved subjects, but under the proposed arrangements it will normally do this only at the request or with the consent of the Scottish administration.

Executive powers in the devolved fields will be exercised by a Scottish executive, a team drawn wholly or mainly from the assembly and headed by a chief executive, who will allocate to each executive member responsibility for a particular subject. A proposed chief executive (normally the leader of the majority party on the assembly) will be invited by the Secretary of State to form an executive. He will then submit his list of proposed members to the assembly, and if the assembly approves it the Secretary of State will formally appoint those chosen. The Secretary of State will also appoint assistants to the executive on the recommendation of the chief executive. The assistants will be political in character, but will not be members of the executive nor require assembly approval. Changes in members and assistants will be made formally by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the chief executive. If the chief executive leaves office for any reason, this will entail the resignation of the whole executive.

The assembly will have a system of committees to advise the executive and investigate what it is doing. There will be a separate committee for each area of administration – health, education, finance and so on. The composition of the committees will reflect the political balance of the assembly as a whole. The relevant committee will be consulted by the executive before major new policies or Bills are introduced, and will be able to make suggestions to the executive and to initiate discussion and inquiries on particular topics. In general it will oversee the department of the administration which works on its special subject.

Wales: A single chamber assembly, with members elected by a simple majority for a particular area, is also proposed for Wales. A similar problem of delay in settling the new constituency boundaries arises. For the first election there will be 72 members, two for each of the 36 parliamentary constituencies in Wales, with each elector having two votes. The electoral system proposed for later elections, when boundaries for the single-member constituencies have been fixed, will be the same as for Scotland. This will give about 75 members on existing electorates. As in Scotland, the term of the assembly will be a fixed period of four years. The arrangements for pay and allowances will also be the same.

The use of the Welsh language in assembly proceedings and documents will be a matter for the assembly itself to decide.

The United Kingdom Parliament will continue to legislate for Wales in all matters, whether they are devolved subjects or not. The Welsh assembly will work within the limits of legislation passed in London, but in controlling the devolved services it will take over whatever powers that legislation confers on central Government, including the power to make delegated legislation. The broad effect will be to place under immediate Welsh democratic supervision a wide range of services run in Wales. This will include bringing under the assembly's control many appointed bodies.

In general, the assembly will be able to do anything in relation to devolved matters that does not require new primary legislation. This means that its powers will vary from service to service, depending on how far the United Kingdom Parliament lays down detailed requirements – in some subjects parliamentary legislation is in fairly general terms; in others it is drawn more tightly.

The Government envisages that the assembly will take a close interest in proposed laws affecting Wales, and will debate Government plans for legislation. Its officials will be consulted when new legislation on devolved subjects is in preparation. The assembly will be able to debate Bills as they are published and to make representations about their contents; and it may sometimes take the initiative and press for new primary legislation. In time Parliament might wish to give the assembly greater discretion, by passing legislation which would lay down only broad guidelines, leaving the assembly to fill in the rest.

In contrast to Scotland, executive powers over policy-making and administration will not be vested in a separate executive but in the assembly as a whole, and there will be maximum opportunity for all members to participate in decision making. Most of the assembly's work will be carried out by committees. These will cover all the main fields of administration, each committee probably taking a particular subject, such as education. Representation on the committees will reflect the political balance in the assembly as a whole.

Each committee will have a chairman and a leader, both appointed by the assembly. The leader, to be known as the executive member, will take the main initiative on policy and administration, and will be the main link with the officials working on the committee's particular subject.

There will, in addition, be a central co-ordinating committee – the executive committee – which will oversee policy generally and in particular control the allocation of resources. It will act for the assembly as a whole on major issues covering several subjects, including discussions with the Government about

finance. The committee will consist of the executive members from the various committees plus a limited number of other members appointed by the assembly (in order to ensure that the voice of ordinary assembly members is heard when general policy decisions are being discussed). The chairman of the executive committee will be known as the chief executive.

Finance

The financial allocation for the devolved services will be in the form of a block grant voted by the United Kingdom Parliament. Economic unity, in the Government's view, requires a system which considers the expenditure needs of the United Kingdom as a whole, including the claims of regions with special problems. This will involve an annual decision on public expenditure for all parts of the country by the Government, answerable to Parliament. Parliament will also approve borrowing limits, to ensure that resources such as manpower and materials are not unfairly drawn to Scotland and Wales by excessive borrowing.

The Scottish and Welsh administrations will put forward proposals for expenditure on their public services, and will be closely involved in the annual reviews. Once the total expenditure has been decided, the administrations will settle their own spending priorities without reference to the central Government in London. In addition, they will decide how much of the block grant should be distributed to local authorities and how to allocate it among individual authorities.

Scottish and Welsh taxpayers will continue to pay United Kingdom taxes at United Kingdom rates into the central pool of national resources. They will continue to receive the public finance they are judged to need compared with other parts of the country. At present both Scotland and Wales because of their special needs receive more by way of public expenditure than they pay in taxation.

Local authorities will retain their existing discretion on the level of rates. In addition, the Scottish and Welsh administrations will be given a power to levy a surcharge on local taxation. This will enable them to supplement the block grant to meet extra expenditure for which their electorates are willing to pay more taxes. (On 1974-75 figures a 10 per cent surcharge would have produced £30 million in Scotland and £9 million in Wales.) The use of this power will be at the discretion of the administrations. The Government's aim is to give them a measure of flexibility. The block grant will be intended to meet relative expenditure needs without recourse to this tax power.

The Government considers that the long-term costs of devolution in manpower and money cannot be calculated exactly. The initial capital cost, mainly for assembly premises in Edinburgh and Cardiff, might be about £4 million. The additional annual costs, including extra staff building up to perhaps 2,500-3,000, might eventually amount to some £22 million. The annual costs would be covered by the block grant. Against these costs savings are expected in United Kingdom Government departments, particularly in relation to Wales.

In 1974-75 public expenditure on the services proposed for devolution came to about £2,000 million in Scotland – nearly three-fifths of total identifiable public expenditure there – and some £850 million in Wales.

Parliament and European Community Proposals

Government suggestions for improvements in the arrangements for domestic parliamentary scrutiny of European Community proposals have been accepted by the House of Commons. They were put forward on 3 November by the Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, Mr Edward Short, during the course of a debate (*Hansard*, cols 28-113) on a report by the Select Committee on Procedure on European secondary legislation (see p 247).

Background

Following Britain's accession to the European Community at the beginning of 1973, arrangements have been made in both Houses of the United Kingdom Parliament to keep members informed about Community developments and to enable them to examine and debate matters which are to be decided in Community institutions (see pp 205-6, 1974). At the heart of these arrangements are two select 'scrutiny' committees (one for each House), the task of which is to sift through proposals and draw Parliament's attention to those which they consider to be of particular legal or political importance and to merit debate.

Since the House of Commons' scrutiny committee was set up in May 1974, over 900 Community documents have been deposited in the House; for each one (apart from a few self-explanatory factual reports) Government departments have prepared detailed explanatory memoranda. On 16 occasions ministers have given evidence to the committee; the House has been given a monthly statement and the chance to ask questions about business going before the Council of Ministers in the following month; and on 24 occasions ministers have explained to the House their proposed line on particular Community negotiations. In the 1974-75 session of Parliament, some 67 hours were spent on Community affairs in the House, including 11 days when they comprised the main business.

New Procedures

Two main changes in existing arrangements have been accepted by the House of Commons:

1 In future, some Community documents selected for debate by the scrutiny committee will be discussed in a standing committee rather than on the floor of the House. (A similar procedure exists for the consideration of domestic secondary legislation). It will be for the Government to decide whether debate should be in committee or in the full House, but the sort of proposals which might be discussed in committee are those at a very early stage of consideration which might attract further debate later; those of a non-legislative nature; those of less than major importance, though still worthy of debate; and private members' motions.

2. A procedure is to be introduced for 'two-stage' scrutiny of Community proposals involving major policy developments, which are substantially amended in the course of Community discussions. This change follows concern expressed by the scrutiny committees and the Select Committee on Procedure that some proposals of a long-term nature may be in a substantially different form when they finally come up for adoption than when they were first seen by Parliament while still at a formative stage. Under the new procedure there will be opportunities for debate at an early stage and for further scrutiny of the proposals as amended before they come up for final adoption. The Government has undertaken to supply the necessary information about amendments, subject to the constraints imposed, for instance, by confidentiality in the Council of Ministers.

Prevention of Terrorism

Recent measures against terrorist activities in Great Britain include the approval by the House of Commons (*Hansard,* 26.11.75, col 1005) of an Order to continue the operation of the existing Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (see p 456, 1974) for a period of four months beyond 28 November, and the introduction into Parliament (*Hansard,* 20.11.75, col 182) of a new Bill for the prevention of terrorism, which was debated on 26 November (*Hansard,* cols 875-1003) and subsequently read for the second time with a majority of 169 (ayes 183; noes 14).

BACKGROUND TO THE LEGISLATION

Opening the debate on the second reading of the Bill, the Home Secretary, Mr Roy Jenkins, reminded the House, first, of the 'appalling events' which had preceded the introduction of the 1974 Act, and then of his undertaking at that time that, unless he felt able to recommend the dropping of substantial parts of the Act by the end of a year, he would not ask the House to proceed by Order, but would think it right to introduce fresh legislation. This was the present position, and the Order for which he was seeking the House's approval (see above) would cease to have effect as soon as the new Bill became law.

As to the Bill itself, it provided the opportunity to propose some useful, if minor, changes in the legislation in the light of a year's experience. Moreover, the House would be able to consider its provisions in more detail than had been possible the previous year when all the stages of the existing Act had had to be taken within 24 hours.

Terrorist Activity

In an outline of the pattern of terrorist activity during the past year, the Home Secretary said that, in December 1974, two police officers had been wounded and an IRA bomb factory uncovered in Southampton. In January 1975 a number of bombing incidents had occurred in London. On 26 February a police officer had been shot dead in Hammersmith and subsequent investigations had revealed the existence there of an IRA bomb factory. In July three police officers had been attacked by shooting in Liverpool and Manchester (two of them had been seriously wounded), and again subsequent inquiries had led to the discovery of an IRA base – over 450 lb of commercial explosive, some 150 detonators and bomb-making materials, and 11 firearms (including automatic weapons, rifles and pistols) had been found in a flat in Liverpool.

In August – after a period during which the IRA, while clearly preparing for terrorism and responding with violence if their preparations were discovered, had not initiated attacks on the British public – a series of bomb incidents had begun again in London and the home counties, where they had been concentrated ever since. By 26 November there had been 17 such incidents, which had resulted in the deaths of eight people and injuries to more than170.[1] In November also some 400 lb of commercial explosive had been found at Southampton. In these circumstances, his view was, said Mr Jenkins, that it would be 'inconceivable within the House and incomprehensible outside' if the Government were to allow the 1974 Act to lapse without replacement.

Powers Exercised under the 1974 Act

As to the use that he had made of the powers conferred upon him by the 1974 Act the Home Secretary told the House that he believed that the use of the exclusion order power (see p 456, 1974) had removed the most experienced leaders of both the Provisional and the Official IRA in England, had disrupted both these organisations, and had helped to protect the people of Great Britain from people whose actions in the country might otherwise have had terrible consequences. During the past year 72 exclusion orders had been made – of which eight had been revoked, five as a result of representions made against the order and three for other reasons. Fifty-five people had been removed – 38 to Northern Ireland and 17 to the Irish Republic.

In regard to his power to extend the period during which the police might hold a suspected terrorist (see p 457, 1974), this had been particularly valuable to the police because it could take them several days to check the details of a suspect against the information obtained from terrorist incidents; there were also some forensic processes (which could be of great importance) which likewise took days to complete. He had used this power in 179 cases, and in 31 of these he had subsequently signed exclusion orders. A further 402 people had been held for less than 48 hours (the period during which the police may detain a suspect on their own authority). Sixty-one of the total detained had later been charged with a criminal offence. The number of people detained at ports by examining officers (see p 457, 1974) totalled 593, but of these only 77 had been held for more than 48 hours.

Mr Jenkins assured the House that he recognised 'with appropriate concern' the 'infringement of liberty' which resulted from the exercise of these

[1] On 27 November, Mr Ross McWhirter, the writer and publisher who had launched an appeal for £50,000 to establish a reward fund for information leading to the arrest of terrorist bombers, was shot in a terrorist attack. Subsequently, responsibility was claimed by persons purporting to be members of the Provisional IRA.

powers. But the benefits had to be set against the costs. Without the Act — or so the information available very strongly suggested – people who had been convicted of major terrorist offences would not have been convicted; people who had been excluded from Great Britain would be engaged in terrorism there; and some people, now alive, would be dead.

Changes in Procedure

The advice that he had received from the police and from his two advisers on the exclusion order procedure (see p 457, 1974), reinforced by his own experience in operating the 1974 Act, did not, said Mr Jenkins, suggest the need for many or major legislative changes. The existing provisions on proscribed organisations (see p 456, 1974) would remain, while the proposed alterations to those on exclusion orders would be essentially of form (the rearrangement of sections and clauses) rather than of substance, although there would now be a general clause about such orders which would apply whatever the citizenship of the person concerned. [Under the 1974 Act subordinate legislation was necessary to provide power to exclude from Northern Ireland persons who were not United Kingdom citizens.] Regarding the procedures for making representations against exclusion orders, the Home Secretary was aware of the 'uneasiness' felt by some people on this score and he had considered, carefully, whether the system should be changed. The experience of the past year had, however, reinforced his views that it would be wrong to attempt to disguise in quasi-judicial dress what was inevitably an executive procedure. The safeguard was the adviser whose task ('not a very attractive or rewarding' one, but one which the advisers nominated under the existing Act had carried out with great devotion to public duty since the Act had come into operation) was to advise the Home Secretary whether he was acting reasonably within the terms of the Act and bearing in mind the nature of the threat. It was, however, proposed that the time in which a person would be able to make representations against exclusion orders should be increased from 48 hours to 96 hours from the time when the order had been served upon him; and it was also proposed that anyone who included in his representation a request for an interview with an adviser (and who had not at that stage been removed with his own consent) should have his request automatically granted.

Another change from the present Act was the proposal that the provisions in the new Bill should remain in force, initially, for 12 months, and should thereafter be capable of being renewed by Order for periods of up to 12 months at a time. The corresponding period in the existing Act was six months. It would, however, be possible to renew all or various parts of the operative provisions of the Bill for periods of less than 12 months, and, should it be judged wise, to dispense with certain parts of the Act while keeping others. Furthermore, the Home Secretary would not hesitate, if feasible, to bring all these powers to an end.

Opposition Support

Opposition support for the Bill and for the continuation of the Order until the Bill was on the statute book was expressed by Mr Ian Gilmour, Conservative front bench spokesman on home affairs, who, however, expressed concern at the possible effects of returning to Northern Ireland people who were thought to have committed or to have been involved in or associated with terrorist activities. The Liberal spokesman, Mr J. A. Beith, also expressed general support.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

British Foreign Policy

The Government's approach to various major issues in foreign affairs was outlined in a debate on 10 November in the House of Commons (*Hansard*, 10.11.75, cols 933-1064) by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr James Callaghan. He began by stating that foreign policy, rightly directed and vigorously applied, could reinforce and aid Britain's domestic policies. Referring to a suggestion by President Sadat during his recent visit to Britain (see p 481) that Britain should play a more prominent role in the settlement of the affairs in the Middle East, and other similar requests, Mr Callaghan said that it was Britain's 'responsibility and our privilege to perform this role within the limits of our strength and the advantages which confer a greater responsibility on us.

'The fact that we are a permanent member of the Security Council confers great responsibilities and great power to influence the course of events. The fact that we are a senior member of the Commonwealth is in itself an important asset. We are also a new but important member of the European Community. It is in our national interest to play a role in world affairs. A vigorous and outward-looking foreign policy will, in my view, aid our domestic regeneration and, because I believe that, I intend so far as I can to ensure that our policy should be outward-looking and vigorous. In so doing, I believe, we shall influence the way in which other nations regard us . . . .'

Mr Callaghan went on to say that Britain must select the areas where she could be most effective. They included the European Community and the Commonwealth. But in other areas of the world, problems could not be solved by the strength of one power but required the co-operation of many countries; multilateral solutions on a regional, and sometimes on a global basis, were needed: 'This is an opportunity for Britain. Here we are, a medium-sized Power that can be of service to the world by means of the inner core of our relations, European and Atlantic. Alongside that is our unique relationship with the Commonwealth.'

Mr Callaghan continued: 'I see Britain's role in the changing world as that of a bridge builder, a role which gives us the power of interpretation of the Commonwealth to the Community, of the United States to the Community, and through our unique relationships with at least one of the parties in the Middle East. In all these ways, with Britain firmly grounded in the European and the Atlantic alliances, I see us being able to interpret and, not in any arrogant sense, to influence other nations because of our fortunate inheritance of information and world-wide contacts.'

Mr Callaghan drew attention to the dangers and tensions in various parts of the world: the fighting in the Lebanon, the civil war in Angola, the unrest in Portugal, the problems of southern Africa and Cyprus and the situation arising from the Guatemalan claim on Belize. However, despite all these anxieties, there were grounds for hope, and he found encouragement for the belief that patient negotiation could eventually resolve some intractable disputes. The Secretary of State went on to give three examples: the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (see pp 305-12); the agreement between Egypt and Israel (see pp 343-44); and the change in tone of the dialogue between the developed and the developing countries. Mr Callaghan then expanded on these examples.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe

'Every nation that went to Helsinki signed an agreed code of behaviour', Mr Callaghan said. 'That in itself was significant and important. Of course, there is no overnight end to tensions. Both sides have great armaments. The Soviet Union is probably increasing the strength of its armaments at the present time. There are great ideological differences, and there is no armistice in the war of ideas. That war will go on between the Soviet Union and those who espouse the ideology of the Soviet Union and the rest of the free world.

'The Helsinki conference', he continued, 'symbolised a determination to build up more normal relations based on respect. Undertakings were given, and it is for all of us to see that all of us who are participants fulfil those undertakings. I do not want to start, so shortly after Helsinki, by taking a carping attitude, because historic attitudes by particular countries have not been reversed overnight. That would be foolish, unless we were still conducting the cold war in its sterile way. We must be clear where we stand. There must be no misunderstanding about that. But if changes are to be made, for example, in what has become known as Basket III, we cannot expect those changes to be made immediately. They will come gradually, if they come at all. They will come by patient persuasion, by private representation, not by loud huckstering,

which, as far as I can see, is likely only to make people more defensive than they are now.[1]

'The progress on arms reduction will be a test. I should like it to be made the major task for 1976. It will need a substantial effort to achieve any arms reduction that is mutually agreed, but it is to that task in Europe that we next have to turn our attention.'

The Middle East

The Secretary of State said that he thought everyone would agree that great credit was due to the parties concerned – to Israel and to Egypt – as well as to the United States Government, for the settlement that had been reached.

'I emphasise that the Sinai agreement is not an end in itself. The momentum must be maintained. The position on the Golan Heights is bound to lead to continuing tension. That is one problem that has to be solved and on which there should be a move soon.

'The representation of the Arab people, the Palestinians, at a peace conference is another issue that has to be resolved. There will be tension until the mandate for peacekeeping is renewed, and I express now the hope that Syria will do that soon.[2] We are reaching the stage where, taking into account perhaps an early move on the Golan Heights, we need a global settlement based on Resolution 242, which still stands up to examination. This would involve a withdrawal from occupied territories, it would involve respect for the rights of every state in the area to live within secure and recognised boundaries and it would involve a recognition of the rights, both human and political, of the Palestinian people.'

The Developing Nations

Referring to his third illustration, the change in the tone of the dialogue of the developed and developing countries, Mr Callaghan said: 'Here is another area in which the momentum must be maintained. The confrontation at the Sixth Session of the United Nations [see pp 157-59, 1974] which I reported to the House last March has evaporated, at any rate temporarily. I think it began to evaporate at the Commonwealth Conference [see pp 184-91], and in conjunction with the statements by the United States Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger, together with statements by the European Community and by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the temperature was lowered before we ever went back to the Special Session of the United Nations in September [see pp 391-4].

'I believe again that the British Government can claim some credit for the proposals that we made in Jamaica, on which we had worked hard for many months. There was nothing that was just conjured out of the air. It had been a very careful period of preparation and consultation and a lot of work had been put in with other Governments. I believe that those proposals for stabilising earnings, as well as proposing various kinds of commodity agreements, themselves had an impact on the temperature and helped to create a better atmosphere.

'Of course, the developing countries' demands go wider than that and there are more methods of helping, for which this country is particularly well placed – for example, the transfer of technology and technical assistance through qualified manpower. This country is rich; this country is wealthy in skilled and qualified manpower and technical capacity. It would be more difficult to meet their demands for the establishment of new industries, especially in a world recession, and the admittance of their products. But there was at the end of the day in the United Nations debate about six weeks or two months ago a genuine consensus, and it is our task to see, in all the forums with which we are associated, that the momentum is not lost. We want to see that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi next May, as well as the work in other areas, carries forward these demands of the developing nations. It is in all our interests that that should happen. We cannot be an island of relative wealth in a world of poverty.'

Cyprus

In other areas little progress had been made. After referring to the question of British representation at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (see p 476 for the decision reached on this at the European Council meeting of 1-2 December) Mr Callaghan reviewed the efforts that have been made to resolve the Cyprus problem, and Britain's role in those efforts (see pp 59-60 and 148). He continued: 'There are three issues. The first is whether there is agreement that there should be a bi-zonal arrangement between Greeks and Turks. The second is what should be the powers, great or small, and the composition, of a central government. The third is what should be the amount of territory in which each community would have a predominant role. We have intimated privately to each side our view of what steps could best be taken to help towards a solution.'

The Secretary of State said that there had been little success so far but he reaffirmed Britain's readiness to help. Britain would continue with private conversations, as would the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United States of America and the European Community.

Nuclear Proliferation

Turning to the problem of growing nuclear proliferation, Mr Callaghan said: 'I am glad to see that there are the beginnings of a debate on the great dangers that the world faces from the increasing use of nuclear power. I do my best to foster this debate because I am sure that it is right. The raw materials that produce nuclear power for peaceful purposes can be used for other purposes too if the technology is known and is present.

'I have illustrated this before . . . by pointing out

[1] There were four items listed on the agenda of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which were referred to as Baskets I-IV. Basket I was concerned with questions relating to security in Europe; Basket II dealt with co-operation in the fields of economics, science and technology and the environment; Basket III covered co-operation in the humanitarian and other fields, with particular emphasis being placed on the extension of human contacts and the wider dissemination of information of all kinds; Basket IV was concerned with the arrangements for the follow-up to the conference.

[2] On 30 November the mandate was renewed for six months by the Security Council following the agreement of Israel and Syria to this.

that the bomb which destroyed Nagasaki contained the equivalent of about 10 kilogrammes of plutonium. By the middle 1980s, at present rates of progress, the world will dispose of 1 million kilogrammes of plutonium. Therefore the remedies, if they are to be effective by the 1980s, must be found now. Basically, I know no better way than to use the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. It should be used to safeguard enrichment and reprocessing plants and to control the use of nuclear materials throughout the whole of the fuel cycle. It is a very difficult thing to do.

'Britain again has played a major role in stimulating discussion and in putting forward positive proposals. There was, first, the Brezhnev-Wilson declaration of common intent at Moscow last February (see p 98), when we began to see the outlines of the problem as it was to emerge. We have worked closely since then, both with the Soviet Union and with the United States, and are in broad agreement about what it is necessary to do.

'We promoted the establishment of a special advisory group to consider the implications of peaceful nuclear explosions. That group is now working and has had a number of meetings. Thirdly, I made specific proposals at the United Nations Ordinary Assembly in September (see pp 394-6) and we are following up those proposals in the IAEA and by discussion with other nations.

'This is one of the most important topics for mankind. I hope that there will be growing public debate about it, for the sake of our children and our grandchildren. If we cannot control the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, if we cannot make the world see that we are running the most frightful risks mankind has ever run, we are going the right way to destroy our planet. At least, the possibilities will be there. Britain must not rest until we have exhausted all possible means of securing control, and we shall continue our efforts to that end.'

European Community

Reviewing the progress of political co-operation in the European Community in recent months, Mr Callaghan said that useful work had been done. Political co-operation had demonstrated its value in the financial and political support given to Portugal (see p 391); in developing a common attitude on Spain (see p 390); in working out relations with Greece, which had applied to join (see p 316); in the continuing dialogue with the Arab states; in working out a common position prior to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; and in adopting a common stand on Israel's position at the United Nations.

Mr Callaghan went on to discuss internal developments within the European Community, and said that the issue which had arisen was that of direct elections to the European Assembly on a constituency basis in place of indirect elections from national Parliaments (see pp 262-3).

'The Assembly has proposed a much larger Assembly than the existing one, giving a workmanlike basis for the proposals suggested. The Council of Foreign Ministers is now studying the proposals that have come from the Assembly. I should divide the discussion into two parts. First, there are the issues that must be settled by the Community as a whole, an obvious one being the size of the Assembly and the distribution between the members. Second, there is the question whether one has one election day or a number of election days, or whether to make it coincide with the general elections of each country.

'Those questions should be settled centrally either by the European Council or by the Council of Foreign Ministers. But I think that there are many other issues – indeed, most – that should be left to national Governments to settle.'

In this context, Mr Callaghan referred, *inter alia*, to such issues as the preparation of the electoral roll, the right to vote, the method of election, the right to be a candidate, the delineation of constituency boundaries and the financing of elections.

He continued 'The European Community itself is still uncertain of its role and its direction. The basic problem is still not settled. One problem that is gradually being settled is that those who thought they saw the commission as a form of European Government are now deserting that view. What is certainly not settled is how the Community will grow and whether it is to be a federal system or a series of nation states co-operating wherever possible. Some nations hold one view and some hold others. No final decision has been reached on that. Nor, I think, will there be a final decision reached on it for some time to come. My own view is that we must co-operate wherever we can and on all possible occasions. We must act independently when we must, but even when we act independently it is our responsibility to keep contact with one another within the membership of the Community.'

European Community

Decisions on how the Community should approach the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) were reached by Community heads of Government at a meeting of the European Council held in Rome on 1 and 2 December.

During the CIEC, at which 27 developed and developing countries are to discuss energy, raw materials, development and international financial questions, the members of the Community will be represented by a single delegation but Britain will be invited to present 'additional statements' reflecting its position as a future major oil producer.

In addition, the European Council reached decisions constituting agreement on emergency oil sharing and the principle of a minimum safeguard price mechanism.

In a statement to the House of Commons (*Hansard*, 4.12.75, cols 1931-43) the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, said: 'British interests in the field of energy are safeguarded, and there was general agreement . . . that the resolution of so difficult a problem has enhanced, not endangered, the cohesion of the Community'.

Heads of Government also agreed in principle to British and German proposals for improved financial control in the Community. Decisions were also reached on the question of direct elections to the

European Assembly and on the introduction of a common Community passport.

The work of the European Council is described below, together with earlier developments relating to agriculture, regional development, and the Community's external relations. Policy on the control of pollution of water areas, on which agreement was reached on 8 December, after this issue went to press, will be dealt with in a later issue.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Conference on International Economic Co-operation

The compromise reached after lengthy discussion by heads of Government on a Community approach to the CIEC followed two months of disagreement among Community members over how the interests of Britain – a future major oil producer – should be represented at the conference.[1]

The conference, due to meet in Paris on 16 December, will bring together 27 oil-producing, oil-consuming, developed and developing countries to discuss problems of world energy, raw materials, development and international finance. Developed countries have been allocated eight seats.

Mr Wilson told the House of Commons that in earlier discussions Britain had been concerned 'to get a viable agreed Community position on energy before the conference.

'We made it clear that it seemed to us reasonable that the nine member states should be represented through the Community where there was a common policy, but that there was every reason why the United Kingdom should be present in its own right, as one of the eight industrialised country representatives at a conference of such far-reaching importance, so that we would put forward our own views where these were not covered by a Community mandate.' He had earlier stressed that there should be 'a much more far-reaching agreed mandate for the Community as a whole'.

The Prime Minister considered that the compromise agreement reached by the European Council 'fully safeguards Britain's interests'. He said that heads of Government had agreed that the Community as a whole should accept two principles which the eight Community members of the International Energy Agency (IEA)[2] had already agreed. These are the principle of a minimum price mechanism and oil sharing during emergencies. With regard to the minimum safeguard price mechanism, which the Prime Minister regarded as 'particularly important', the heads of Government agreed that 'the council will decide as soon as possible appropriate mechanisms to protect existing supplies and ensure the development of alternative sources of Community energy, on reasonable economic terms, and to encourage conservation in the use of energy'.

Members of the Community are to be represented at the CIEC by a single delegation, whose spokesman will be the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. However, during the ministerial conference, which is to precede the detailed work of the CIEC in four commissions, Britain will, according to the European Council agreement, 'be invited to present additional statements'. Luxembourg, which takes over the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 1 January 1976, is the only other Community country entitled to speak individually in this way.

In the four commissions, each of which will deal with one of the four main elements of the conference, representatives of member countries who will form part of the Community delegation will also be able to comment on specific questions.

In his Commons statement, the Prime Minister said that during the ministerial conference and in the commissions 'our statements will be consistent with whatever Community position or mandate has been agreed by us. But in our interventions . . . we shall be able to draw attention to particular problems and be able to make a United Kingdom contribution which reflects our own very different situation and experience'.

Financial control

British and German proposals for improved financial control in the Community were unanimously accepted in principle by heads of Government at the European Council meeting.

Mr Wilson invited his colleagues to accept in principle proposals he had put forward in a speech in Liverpool in September (see p 390). Aspects of these proposals had much in common with suggestions made by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for improved control over the Community's spending.

The Prime Minister had suggested that a Public Accounts Committee on British lines should be established in the European Assembly, that a commissioner with responsibility for overall expenditure control should be appointed, and that accounting officers should be given the taks of authorising spending in each of the Community's departments.

Heads of Government invited the President of the Council of Ministers and the President of the Commission to approach the President of the Assembly on the subject of the establishment of the proposed committee.

It was also agreed that the Council of Ministers should meet in the early summer of each year to lay down guidelines for the Commission in drawing up the preliminary budget.

In his Commons statement, the Prime Minister said that the agreement 'represents an important step towards ensuring effective control over voted expenditure in the Community'.

Direct Elections

Direct elections to the European Assembly are to take place in May or June 1978, although any country not able to meet that date will be allowed to appoint representatives as at present.

Referring to the European Council's decision on direct elections (see p 475 for background) the Prime Minister told the House of Commons that, 'We accept in principle the commitment to direct

[1] The Foreignand Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Callaghan presented in detail Britain's case for separate representation at a Council of Ministers' meeting on 7 October.

2 See pp 434–5, 1974. France is not a member of the IEA.

elections in the Treaty of Rome'[1] but a further period was required for consultations with parliamentary parties, and parliamentary consideration of the matter, before Britain could adopt a final position about holding direct elections as early as 1978.

Discussions are continuing on questions to be decided at Community level, such as the number and distribution of seats. A draft convention is expected to be considered at the next meeting of the European Council.

Community Passport

Heads of Government agreed that a uniform Community passport may be issued by member states from 1978 onwards. The Prime Minister said in his Commons statement that he had made it clear to his Community colleagues that as far as Britain was concerned 'the timing would depend on progress with revision of our own nationality legislation, and I could give no assurances about the timing of that legislation'.

Law and Order

Mr Wilson said that the Council had also adopted a British proposal that Community ministers responsible for law and order should meet to discuss matters coming within their competence.

AGRICULTURE

Devaluation of the 'Green Pound'

The rate of exchange – or representative rate – between the £ sterling and the unit of account (ua) used in the Community's agricultural sector was adjusted downwards by 5·8 per cent at a meeting on 13 and 14 October in Luxembourg of the Community's agriculture ministers.

Britain's representative rate – giving what is often referred to as the 'green pound' – was devalued from £1 = 1·86369 ua to £1 = 1·75560 ua. The effect of this was to increase support prices for producers in Britain by about 6·2 per cent in sterling terms and to reduce monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs)—the so-called 'border taxes' which have been imposed on some agricultural trade in the Community in order to compensate for trade distortions caused by floating currencies (see pp 372-3, 1974, and pp 313-14).

The devaluation of the 'green pound' – the fourth since Britain acceded to the Community in January 1973 – generally took effect from 27 October. However, for common wheat the increase is delayed until 1 July 1976 to defer the consequent increase in the price of bread, and for beef the change is not effective until 5 January 1976 in order to avoid excessive sales into intervention during the period of heavy autumn marketings.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Fred Peart, told the House of Commons (*Hansard*, 15.10.75, cols 1360-2) that the changes had been agreed 'in the interest of our agricultural industry and in order to safeguard our food supplies. We have sought to keep a balance with consumer interests'.

Mr Peart said that the agreement should be worth about £90 million in a full year to the British farming industry, £50 million of which would be received by milk producers. As a consequence of the change, the guaranteed price for milk had been increased from the beginning of November by 2·3p a gallon, bringing the average guaranteed price for 1975-76 to 37·04p, over 40 per cent above the price set in the 1974 annual review.

In his commons statement, Mr Peart said: 'I am sure that this settlement will help to meet the milk producers' difficulties. It comes on top of the increase of 2·2p per gallon decided in July,[1] making 4½p per gallon altogether. There will be scope for a further increase at the beginning of the next milk year'.

The effect of this and the earlier increase has been to raise the retail price of milk to 8½p from 2 November. Increases of about 2p per pound for butter and cheese could occur depending on the market situation. The total effect in a full year of the 'green pound's' devaluation on the cost of food is expected to be less than 1 per cent, and less than one-quarter of 1 per cent on the total cost of living.

At the same meeting, agreement was reached that the representative rate for the Irish pound should be devalued by 2·22 per cent, bringing it to £1 = 1·72914 ua. Although a small difference still exists between the representative rates of Britain and the Irish Republic, it was nevertheless decided that MCAs on agricultural trade between the two countries would be abolished. Mr Peart said that this 'will be very welcome both to farmers and to traders, particularly in Northern Ireland'.

While MCAs were in operation on Anglo-Irish trade, some smuggling of livestock across the border from Northern Ireland to the Irish Republic occurred in order to obtain subsidy payments on exports to the United Kingdom.

New Zealand Dairy Products

The cif[2] price for imports into Britain of New Zealand dairy products is to be increased by 18 per cent from 1 January 1976.

Community agriculture ministers meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 November agreed that the price paid by Britain for specific quantities of New Zealand butter and cheese imported under special arrangements detailed in Protocol 18 of the Treaty of Accession should be increased in the case of butter to 107·16 ua/100 kg, and for cheese to 92·52 ua/100 kg.

The increase, estimated to be worth about £13 million to New Zealand suppliers in 1976, will have no effect on the consumer price in Britain as it will be accompanied by an equivalent reduction in the special British levy imposed on these imports.

The agreement is in line with the declaration issued by Community heads of Government after their Dublin meeting in March (see p 144) when they accepted the need for periodic reviews of the price paid for Protocol 18 imports.

The increase is the second to be implemented since Britain's accession: an 18 per cent rise in cif import prices was agreed in November last year (see p 462, 1974).

Discussions on the specific quantities which Britain will import after 1977 when the arrangements

[1] Article 138 (3).

[1] See p. 313.

[2] i.e., cost, insurance, freight.

in Protocol 18 expire are still being discussed by Community agriculture ministers.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The first grants from the Community's regional development fund (ERDF) were allocated by the Commission on 19 October. Allocations totalled 160 million units of account (mua) (£66·6 million), of which Britain received 21·2 mua (£8·77 million).

Funds from the ERDF, the establishment of which was agreed in principle by Community heads of Government at their meeting in December 1974 (see p 11 and 94), assist industrial, handicraft and service investments; infrastructure projects connected with these; and agricultural infrastructures, which are eligible for national regional assistance.

The 160 mua, which will aid some 655 investment projects in regions of all the Community's member states, represents over one-half of the total allocation for 1975 agreed by the heads of Government. Agreement in principle on the disbursement of the remainder of the 300 mua allocation for 1975 is expected to be reached in December (see below).

Britain's share of the ERDF's first disbursements will assist 236 projects, all of them industrial site and advance factories, in all the areas eligible for national regional development assistance.

1976 ERDF Grants

The ERDF was discussed during a House of Commons debate on 6 November (*Hansard*, cols 704-63) on the Community budget established for 1976 (see pp 389-91).

The Council of Ministers agreed on 30 September that 300 mua should be allocated in the 1976 budget for expenditure by the ERDF. This compared with an allocation agreed by the Community's heads of Government at their December 1974 meeting of some 500 mua.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Joel Barnett, told the Commons: 'I want to emphasise that the council's decisions will in no way hinder implementation of the fund or slow down expenditure'. The ERDF was 'an area of the budget to which we attach great importance'.

Mr Barnett pointed out that the budget contained both commitment appropriations, which represent the limit to which the Commission can undertake to provide assistance from the fund, and payment appropriations, which limit actual payments made in the course of the year. 'These two limits reflect the inevitable lag between agreement to assist a project and payments being made', he said.

The council had agreed that the level of commitment appropriations should be fixed at the maximum available under the heads of Government agreement, that is 500 mua. 'Because of the time lag between agreement to a commitment and payment being made, approximately 100 mua of the 1975 provision will have to be carried forward to 1976'. Mr Barnett continued. 'In view of this, the council felt that a further 300 mua would be sufficient to meet the payments likely to be made . . . This will enable 400 mua to be available for 1976.'

Mr Barnett added that the council had accepted that there might be a need for a supplementary budget if payments were in fact greater than this.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Generalised Scheme of Preferences

Access into the Community for exports from many of the poorest developing countries will be improved following agreement on the Community's generalised scheme of preferences (GSP) for 1976.

Community economic and finance ministers meeting in Brussels on 17 November agreed a 15 per cent increase in the duty-free quota for industrial products and reduced by 10 per cent the duty on most processed agricultural products covered by the GSP.

The Community's GSP gives preferential access to a number of manufactured and processed agricultural products exported by developing countries which do not have special links with the Community, such as adhesion to the Convention of Lomé. It is therefore of particular importance to the countries of the Indian sub-continent. In March 1975 the Community agreed that the GSP would continue to evolve in the direction of giving greater help for the poorest developing countries.

At the meeting, at which Britain was represented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Denis Healey, agreement was reached that for industrial products other than textiles the duty free quota in 1976 would be increased from 2·3 thousand mua to 2·65 thousand mua, an overall increase of 15 per cent. For textiles, the 1975 arrangements are to be continued, subject to an overall increase of 5 per cent

In addition to the 10 per cent reduction in the duty on processed agricultural products covered by the Community's GSP, preferences were extended to other products not already covered. Exports from India of fire-cured tobacco – 7 per cent of its total exports to the Community – are to be given improved access following the increase in the appropriate quota from 30,000 tonnes to 38,000 tonnes a year. Of this, Britain is expected to purchase over 23,000 tons in 1976.

Icelandic Fisheries

On 15 October the Icelandic Government increased Iceland's fisheries limit from 50 to 200 miles. The two-year interim agreement on the Anglo-Icelandic fisheries dispute over the previous extension from 12 to 50 miles, expired on 13 November. British trawlers being permitted to fish within the 50-mile limit in the intervening period. Meetings between the British and Icelandic Governments to discuss a new agreement have so far proved inconclusive and, following harassment of the British fishing fleet by Icelandic vessels, the British Government has decided to provide naval protection. Three Royal Navy frigates were ordered into the disputed waters on 25 November.

Statement

A statement was issued jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 25 November. It read:

'Her Majesty's Government have decided to provide naval protection to enable British trawlers to continue fishing in international waters off Iceland in the face of efforts by Icelandic coastguard vessels to stop them.

'HMS *Leopard* which is already on its way to the area will reach the fishing grounds later today [25th]. She will assume control of the civilian protection vessels [see below] and organise operations on the fishing grounds so that effective naval protection can be provided once she is joined by two other frigates on Saturday, 29 November.

'Today's decision follows months of abortive negotiation with the Icelandic Government. HMG have repeatedly made clear their willingness to show flexibility on the amount of fish caught, on conservation areas and on a number of other matters, as was once again made clear to the Icelandic Foreign Minister in a message last weekend. HMG remain ready to resume negotiations at any time. But in the absence of any sign from the Icelandic Government that they are willing to talk, the British Government have no alternative but to provide the means whereby British trawlers can exercise their legitimate right to fish in international waters.'

Announcing the decision in the House of Commons (*Hansard*, 25.11.75, cols 666-70) the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Rodgers, said that the Government had taken the decision to provide naval protection 'regretfully and with reluctance'.

In answer to questions in the House of Commons about further discussions with the Icelandic Government over fisheries limits (*Hansard*, 26.11.75, cols 836-9) the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Roy Hattersley, said that the Government was ready to continue discussions with the Government of Iceland 'with a view to reaching a negotiated settlement, whenever and wherever the Government of Iceland is prepared to enter into such talks'. He said, further, that the actions of the British Government had been intended 'to do no more and no less than to defend our own proper interests and international obligations and the opportunities for our trawling fleet and those who support it on shore to continue their livelihoods and remain in work. No act of provocation or international lawlessness will come from the British Government.'

Background

The previous dispute over Icelandic fisheries was resolved in an interim agreement on 13 December 1973 (see pp 488-9, 1973). The interim agreement was to last for two years and did not prejudice the legal rights of either Government in relation to the substantive dispute.

On 25 July 1974 the International Court of Justice ruled that Britain was not bound by Iceland's unilateral decision of 1972 to extend its fishing limits from 12 to 50 nautical miles and that Iceland had no right to prevent British trawlers from fishing or unilaterally to impose restrictions on British trawlers operating in the Icelandic 12-50 miles coastal zone (see p 313, 1974). This judgment was rejected by Iceland. The interim agreement of November 1973 had not affected the case, nor did the verdict affect the agreement.

The Icelandic Government announced on 15 July 1975 (see p 316) its intention to increase Iceland's fisheries limit from 50 to 200 miles with effect from 15 October. All foreign fishing vessels were to be prohibited from fishing within the 200-mile limit. The Icelandic Government was, however, willing to have discussions about the restrictions with interested nations. Permission was subsequently given for British trawlers to continue fishing within the 50-mile limit until 13 November.

On 9 November the Icelandic Foreign Minister, Mr Agustsson, said that British trawlers would be cleared from the banned waters by the Icelandic coastguard when the agreement expired.

In the meantime official talks about a new agreement were proceeding (see below). After the breakdown of the third round of talks, Mr Hattersley issued a statement in Reykjavik on 17 November during the course of which he said that he had protested to the Icelandic Foreign Minister about the 'harassment of British trawlers fishing in international waters'. He continued, 'We hope that British trawlermen may still continue to fish as if the interim agreement were still in force. But I must make it clear that they will have firm support in the event of molestation'. This reinforced the British Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on 21 October (*Hansard*, col 235) in which he said that 'no British fishing vessel will go unprotected where protection is necessary'.

On 17 November three unarmed oil rig supply vessels, the *Star Aquarius*, *Star Polaris* and *Star Sirius*, on hire to the Government, were ordered into the fishing grounds to join the three unarmed Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food fisheries support vessels already there, the *Othello*, *Hausa*, and *Miranda*. Harassment of British trawlers recommenced after the breakdown of the November talks and the decision to send in frigates to protect the fleet was taken on 25 November. Mr Hattersley told a press conference on that day that the principle on which the frigates would be working was to protect the trawlers with the minimum of force. They would operate in basically the same way as the civilian unarmed vessels already in the area but more effectively because of their superior speed and communications. They would give prior information of the movement of the Icelandic coastguard cutters, shadow the cutters and help in the process of interposing the civilian vessels between the cutters and the trawlers. He said that it was Britain's wish to minimise the escalation but that the operation would continue as long as was necessary.

Official Negotiations

Official talks between the British and Icelandic Governments on Britain's fishing rights within the 200-mile limit began in Reykjavik on 11 September but proved inconclusive.

A second round of talks was held in London on 23 and 24 October. The Icelandic delegation was led by the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Agustsson and the Minister of Industry. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

said in the House of Commons (*Hansard*, 29.10.75, cols 1577-9) that it had been agreed that scientific and technical discussions on the state of the fish stocks off Iceland should be held by Britain and Icelandic fisheries experts as soon as possible and that a further meeting at ministerial level should take place in the light of these discussions.

The third and most recent round of talks was held in Reykjavik from 15 to 17 November and was attended by Mr Hattersley and the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Edward Bishop. Mr Hattersley made a statement about this round of talks in the House of Commons on 20 November (*Hansard*, cols 171-8). He said that both in informal talks and in formal negotiations he had made five proposals. These proposals, he said, were a response to informal suggestions made to British officials when they visited Iceland ten days earlier, that Iceland might be prepared to put forward an annual catch figure of 65,000 tons to replace the indicative total of 130,000 tons which appeared in the agreement that expired on 13 November.

'I suggested' Mr Hattersley said, 'that the new agreement should specify a figure that was an absolute limit on the British catch rather than an indicative total. I proposed that in order to preserve the stock of young fish we should increase the mesh size of British nets to that which the Government of Iceland is soon to require their trawler fleet to use. I offered our good offices in future negotiations with the EEC and I invited the Icelandic fishing industry to enter into discussions with their British counterparts about landing rights in British ports. I proposed a British total annual catch of 110,000 tons per year for the duration of the new agreement but I made it clear that if the Government of Iceland made a further offer in excess of the 65,000 tons I was ready to advance towards a mutually acceptable total. The Icelandic Foreign Minister told me that he had no mandate to improve on the offer of 65,000 tons.'

Mr Hattersley said that he had told the Icelandic Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister, Mr Geir Hallgrimsson, that 'the only wish of Her Majesty's Government was to preserve the legitimate interests of the British fishing industry whose right to fish in the disputed waters had been upheld by the International Court of Justice. I emphasised that the figure of 110,000 tons was not a total to which I was irrevocably committed and that I accepted that requirements of conservation obliged all countries fishing in the North Atlantic to accept a reduction in their catch'.

New Agreements

It was announced in Bonn on 20 November that the Federal Republic of Germany and Iceland had agreed the general outline of a new fisheries agreement. The agreement was approved by the Icelandic Parliament, the *Althing*, on 28 November by a vote of 42 to 18. Under the agreement, 40 German trawlers will be allowed to fish within the 200-mile limit. (The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany does not recognise Iceland's claim to this limit.) The agreement imposes an annual catch limit of 60,000 tons, of which cod may account for 5,000 tons, the balance being mainly coalfish (coley) and ocean perch. All German factory and freezer trawlers are excluded from the area under agreement. The agreement contains a condition whereby it falls void if the lowering of tariffs on Iceland's fish exports to the European Community (under Protocol 6 of Iceland's 1972 trade agreement with the European Community) does not take effect within five months.

An agreement was signed on 28 November between Iceland and Belgium which permits 12 Belgian trawlers to fish inside the 200-mile limit. It specifies a total catch of 6,500 tons per annum of which cod can account for 1,500 tons.

United Nations Resolution on Zionism

On 10 November 1975, by 72 votes to 35 with 32 abstentions, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring Zionism to be 'a form of racism and racial discrimination'. Britain, in common with the other members of the European Community (EEC), voted against the resolution. This action was subsequently endorsed by the European Assembly, which on 13 November adopted a resolution supporting the stand taken by the Governments of the EEC and condemning the 'incomprehensible and absurd equation of Zionism with racism'.

During the debate in the General Assembly, Britain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr Ivor Richard, declared that Britain stood by the statement made on behalf of the European Community countries in the Third Committee (see below) and totally rejected the notion that Zionism was racism. To stigmatise Zionism in this way was to confuse racism and racial discrimination with nationalism. 'Such a confusion, even if inadvertent, can serve only to undermine the right of the state of Israel to exist', declared Mr Richard. 'The United Kingdom categorically rejects and will oppose any such move'. Britain believed that the resolution in question could only increase the difficulties of attaining a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Moreover, it was harmful to the United Nations itself. 'Capriciously introduced and wantonly pursued, it has proved the most divisive issue of this Assembly', maintained Mr Richard, adding that it risked bringing the whole organisation into disrepute. He described the resolution as 'exactly the wrong issue, raised in the wrong way and at the wrong time', and declared that Britain was determined to oppose it.

The draft resolution on Zionism originally came before the United Nations Third Committee – the committee dealing with social, humanitarian and cultural matters – on 17 October. It was introduced during a discussion of resolutions connected with the UN Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The EEC delegates immediately declared their opposition to the draft resolution on Zionism: acting as spokesman for the Community, the Italian representative stated that the member Governments categorically rejected the notion that Zionism was a form of racism and of racial discrimination. Nevertheless, the Third Committee eventually adopted the

draft resolution on Zionism by 70 votes to 29 with 27 abstentions.

The UN Decade to Combat Racism

The resolution on Zionism was the last of three resolutions before the General Assembly on 10 November connected with the UN Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The first two resolutions suggested methods of strengthening the decade and made plans for an anti-racist world conference. Although both resolutions were ultimately adopted by large majorities, Britain, together with the majority of the other EEC countries, voted against them.

Earlier, Mr Richard explained to the General Assembly why Britain intended to oppose all three resolutions. This was not because of lack of sympathy with the original aims of the decade: indeed, Britain had supported the decade since its inception three years ago and had fully co-operated in the activities connected with it. Moreover, Britain had supported the first two resolutions on the decade when they had originally come in draft form before the Third Committee on 17 October. Its decision to vote against them now was solely due to the introduction of the resolution on Zionism. The Third Committee's acceptance of the draft resolution on Zionism on 17 October had completely changed the agreed basis of the decade, had altered its aims and character and had, in fact, transformed it into a 'Decade against Zionism'.

'The United Kingdom cannot accept this mutation', declared Mr Richard. 'We are compelled therefore to address ourselves to a situation where resolutions 1 and 2 are overtly linked to resolution 3.'

Shorter Notes

STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NYERERE

President Nyerere of Tanzania was the guest of the Queen when he paid a state visit to Britain from 18 to 21 November, remaining as a guest of the Government until 23 November. This was the President's first state visit to Britain. It marked a further stage in the continuing improvement in relations between the two countries, after an earlier difficult period, as well as a recognition of President Nyerere's importance as a leader within the Commonwealth and the developing world, with a particular role to play in southern African affairs.

During his visit the President, who was accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Mr Kaduma, had talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in which bilateral relations and current southern African problems were reviewed. He also had discussions on Britain's aid programme with the Minister for Overseas Development.

In June this year it was announced that Britain was to provide a £10 million grant to Tanzania, for development projects to be agreed between the two Governments. This followed a recent decision, from which Tanzania was the first country to benefit, that future British aid commitments will normally be on grant terms to countries with an annual per capita income of less than $200. Also being arranged is a grant of £2·5 million for the purchase of certain categories of British goods, which was offered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in January during his visit to Dar es Salaam (see p 57).

PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO BRITAIN

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt paid an official visit to Britain from 6 to 8 November 1975, the first visit to Britain by an Egyptian head of State since the Egyptian revolution of 1952. The visit, following soon after that in June by the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Ismail Fahmi (see p 279), reflects the desire of both Britain and Egypt to develop a close and fruitful relationship. Mr Fahmi also accompanied President Sadat to Britain in November.

While in London, President Sadat had discussions with the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr James Callaghan, and several other British ministers. During their meeting on 7 November, Mr Wilson assured President Sadat of his full support for the part which the President had played in achieving the recent Sinai agreement (see pp 343-4). Mr Wilson and President Sadat both emphasised the need for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the area and for early progress on other fronts, in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement as quickly as possible.

The talks also covered British trade with, and investment in, Egypt, and President Sadat outlined the opportunities offered to British industry by Egypt's plans for reconstruction and development. There was discussion of British assistance to Egypt in such fields as the development of new cities, the exploitation of mineral resources, development of the fish resources of Lake Nasser, nuclear power and car assembly. During his visit, President Sadat also met a number of leading British businessmen and industrialists.

Recent British aid to Egypt has included a contribution of £1 million to the United Nations Development Programme for development in the Suez Canal Zone. This was announced during a visit to Egypt in September by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Overseas Development, Mr John Grant, who described it as the largest single contribution yet made. British assistance to the development of Cairo Airport has recently been increased by an additional loan of £500,000 to cover the cost of extra equipment and charges, thus raising the total British contribution to £3·5 million. Britain is also providing technical assistance grants to meet a large proportion of the cost of the experimental work involved in an important new feasibility study for the development of the Suez Canal, to be undertaken by a team of British engineers, economists and other experts. This will be an addition to the studies already being carried out by British consultancy firms in the Suez Canal region (see p 279), which continues to provide an important field for Anglo-Egyptian economic co-operation.

SPAIN – ACCESSION OF KING JUAN CARLOS

Spain's head of State, General Franco, died on 20 November. He was succeeded by Prince Juan Carlos who had temporarily assumed the powers of head of State on 30 October and who was proclaimed King on 22 November.

The funeral of General Franco on 23 November was attended by the British Ambassador in Madrid, representing the Queen; by Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, representing the Government; and by Mr Eldon Griffiths, representing the Opposition.

The Duke of Edinburgh represented the Queen at ceremonies marking the Accession which took place in Madrid on 27 November. The ceremonies were also attended by Lord Shepherd and the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Maudling. Foreign heads of State or Government attending included President Giscard d'Estaing of France, President Scheel of the Federal Republic of Germany, President O'Dalaigh of the Irish Republic, and Vice-President Rockefeller of the United States.

King Juan Carlos, who is the grandson of Spain's las reigning monarch, had been proclaimed formally as General Franco's eventual successor and future King at a plenary session of the Spanish Parliament on 22 July 1969.

ANGOLA: INDEPENDENCE

On 10 November Angola became the last of Portugal's territories in Africa to attain independence, when the Portuguese High Commissioner, Admiral Leonel Cardoso, handed over sovereignty to 'the Angolan people'. Afterwards, two rival Republics declared themselves: the People's Republic of Angola was set up in the capital, Luanda, by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), with Dr Agostinho Neto as its President; and the People's Democratic Republic of Angola was established jointly by the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), with its capital at Nova Lisboa, henceforth to be known as Huambo. Subsequently, fighting has continued between the movements supporting the rival claimant Governments, as it has for most of the year after agreement in January between the Portuguese Government and the three liberation movements for an orderly transition to independence on 11 November (see p 57).

INDEPENDENCE OF SURINAM

On 25 November Surinam – once a colony of the Netherlands – became an independent republic. Situated on the north coast of South America between Guyana and French Guiana, Surinam has an area of approximately 160,000 sq km. In 1972, its population was 384,000, of whom 102,297 were concentrated in the capital, Paramaribo. Racial groups in the country include Hindus, Creoles and Indonesians. Surinam's connection with the Netherlands dates back to the seventeenth century. In 1954 it became an autonomous state and, together with the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles, a constituent part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1974, the Surinam Government expressed a desire for complete independence before the end of 1975. A draft constitution for the new republic was accepted by the Surinam Parliament shortly before independence.

Surinam is among the world's largest producers of bauxite, and this industry continues to hold a dominant position in the country's economy. Bauxite represents Surinam's chief source of external revenue, most of the ore exported going to the United States. Increasingly, however, the ore mined in Surinam is being locally processed into alumina and aluminium. Surinam also has considerable timber resources and almost unlimited hydro-electric potential, which has to some extent been exploited for the production of aluminium. The chief agricultural crops are rice (the main agricultural export), sugar, bananas, citrus fruit, coffee, coconuts and palm oil. The government hopes to develop the country's agriculture in order to reduce its dependence on imported food.

ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Rambouillet Summit

The following declaration was issued after the economic summit meeting at Rambouillet in France.[1]

The Rambouillet Summit Declaration

The Heads of States and Governments of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, met in the Chateau de Rambouillet from 15 to 17 November 1975, and agreed to declare as follows:

1 In these three days we held a searching and productive exchange of views on the world economic situation, on economic problems common to our countries, on their human, social and political implications and on plans for resolving them.

2 We came together because of shared beliefs and shared responsibilities. We are each responsible for the government of an open, democratic society, dedicated to individual liberty and social advancement. Our success will strengthen, indeed is essential to democratic societies everywhere. We are each responsible for assuring the prosperity of a major industrial economy. The growth and stability of our economies will help the entire industrial world and developing countries to prosper.

3 To assure in a world of growing interdependence the success of the objectives set out in this Declaration, we intend to play our own full part and strengthen our efforts for closer international co-operation and constructive dialogue among all countries, transcending differences in stages of economic development, degrees of resource endowment and political social systems.

4 The industrial democracies are determined to overcome high unemployment, continuing inflation and serious energy problems. The purpose of our meeting was to review our progress, identify more clearly the problems that we must overcome in the future, and to set a course that we will follow in the period ahead.

5 The most urgent task is to assure the recovery of our economies and to reduce the waste of human resources involved in unemployment. In consolidating the recovery it is essential to avoid unleashing additional inflationary forces which would threaten its success. The objective must be growth that is steady and lasting. In this way, consumer and business confidence will be restored.

6 We are confident that our present policies are compatible and complementary and that recovery is under way. Nevertheless, we recognise the need for vigilance and adaptability in our policies. We will not allow the recovery to falter. We will not accept another outburst of inflation.

7 We also concentrated on the need for new efforts in the areas of world trade, monetary matters and raw materials, including energy.

8 As domestic recovery and economic expansion proceed, we must seek to restore growth in the volume of world trade. Growth and price stability will be fostered by maintenance of an open trading system. In a period where pressures are developing for a return to protectionism, it is essential for the main trading nations to confirm their commitment to the principles of the OECD pledge [see p 223, 1974, and p 239] *and to avoid resorting to measures by which they could try to solve their problems at the expense of others, with damaging consequences in the economic, social and political fields. There is a responsibility on all countries, especially those with strong balance of payments positions and on those with current deficits to pursue policies which will permit the expansion of world trade to their mutual advantage.*

9 We believe that the multilateral trade negotiations should be accelerated. In accordance with the principles laid down in the Tokyo Declaration [see p 394, 1973], *they should aim at substantial tariff cuts, even eliminating tariffs in some areas, at significantly expanding agricultural trade and at reducing non-tariff measures. They should aim at achieving the maximum possible level of trade liberalisation therefrom. We propose as our goal completion of the negotiations in 1977.*

10 We look to an orderly and fruitful increase in our economic relations with socialist countries as an important element in progress in détente, *and in world economic growth.*

We will also intensify our efforts to achieve a prompt conclusion of the negotiations now under way concerning export credits.

11 With regard to monetary problems, we affirm our intention to work for greater stability. This involves efforts to restore greater stability in underlying economic and financial conditions in the world economy. At the same time, our monetary authorities will act to counter disorderly market

[1] *The Rambouillet Summit Declaration.* Cmnd 6314. HMSO, 12p. ISBN 0 10 163140 5.

conditions, or erratic fluctuations, in exchange rates. We welcome the rapprochement, reached at the request of many other countries, between the views of the United States and France on the need for stability that the reform of the International Monetary System must promote. This rapprochement will facilitate agreement through the IMF [International Monetary Fund] *at the next session of the Interim Committee in Jamaica on the outstanding issues of International Monetary Reform.*

12 A co-operative relationship and improved understanding between the developing nations and the industrial world is fundamental to the prosperity of each. Sustained growth in our economies is necessary to growth in developing countries: and their growth contributes significantly to health in our own economies.

The present large deficits in the current accounts of the developing countries represent a critical problem for them and also for the rest of the world. This must be dealt with in a number of complementary ways. Recent proposals in several international meetings have already improved the atmosphere of the discussion between developed and developing countries [see pp 184 and 345]. *But early practical action is needed to assist the developing countries. Accordingly, we will play our part, through the IMF and other appropriate international fora, in making urgent improvements in international arrangements for the stabilisation of the export earnings of developing countries and in measures to assist them in financing their deficits. In this context, priority should be given to the poorest developing countries.*

13 World economic growth is clearly linked to the increasing availability of energy sources. We are determined to secure for our economies the energy sources needed for their growth. Our common interests require that we continue to co-operate in order to reduce our dependence on imported energy through conservation and the development of alternative sources. Through these measures as well as international co-operation between producer and consumer countries responding to the long-term interest of both, we shall spare no effort in order to ensure more balanced conditions and a harmonious and steady development in the world energy market.

14 We welcome the convening of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation scheduled for 16 December. We will conduct this dialogue in a positive spirit to assure that the interests of all concerned are protected and advanced. We believe that industrialised and developing countries alike have a critical stake in the future success of the world economy and in the co-operative political relationships on which it must be based.

15 We intend to intensify our co-operation on all these problems in the framework of existing institutions as well as in all the relevant international organisations.

Britain and the World Economy

In a speech on Britain's and the world's economic and political situation, given at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in London's Guildhall on 10 November, the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, included a summary of the Government's approach to British and international economic problems.

Britain's Overseas Trade

Speaking of the current world recession, Mr Wilson said: 'Hardly any major nation devotes a higher proportion of its national activities to export trade mainly in manufactured goods, in relation to its size, than Britain. More than a quarter of our production of goods and services is created for export. Britain is therefore peculiarly vulnerable to the decline in world trade.' He added that, in a world of shrinking trade, for the first time for many years Britain had been able to increase its share of world trade. It had shown remarkable increases in trade with the new markets in Middle Eastern countries (see p 100) – and Mr Wilson was confident the best was yet to come. Britain's export achievement during 1975 had made a major contribution to the fact that the current account deficit was running at only a little more than half the rate in 1974. Britain was particularly well fitted to profit from world trade recovery.

Industrial Strategy

The Prime Minister referred to the agreement reached by management, workers and Government on 'a fundamentally new approach to the problem of working out an industrial strategy for Britain' (see p 434). He said the approach involved a joint effort on the part of industry to develop productivity, to work out more effective manpower policies, including agreement on socially acceptable ways of tackling overmanning, as well as – with Government help – giving priority for the necessary increase in industrial training and retraining. 'With the rapid pace of economic and technological change', Mr Wilson said, 'we are reaching a situation where, for both workers and management, the normal pattern will involve retraining perhaps twice in a working life-time, to ensure that they have the right skills to play their part in this country's future industrial advance – retraining either for new jobs in developing industries, or for new jobs in their own factories as products change and production methods change.' The Government would contribute through financial assistance and in its other policies to ensure that industry, public and private, was able to earn sufficient profits to permit and encourage enterprises to expand.

Invisible Earnings

Speaking of Britain's economic performance, the Prime Minister said that too small an industrial and export base was carrying too large a load of demand, however essential, on resources, and that this overloading had occurred both in areas of the public sector, and, in one recent boom, in areas of the private sector too, particularly property. This did not apply, however, to those private sector activities, many of them concentrated in the City of London, which had led to the increase in Britain's invisible earnings (see p 438). During the current year net invisible earnings had been running at £115 million a month. This figure had been arrived at after including not only private sector invisible debits but

also net Government expenditure abroad, including, for example, the troops in the Federal Republic of Germany, Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas expenditure and part of overseas aid. If that had not been included, the achievement on invisibles would have been seen to be considerably higher.

International Problems

Mr Wilson said he was proud to feel that, as one contribution towards a long-term solution of the world economic problems, the British Government had put forward a major initiative on commodities, food and raw materials, and on relations between developed and developing countries (see p 189). This initiative had been welcomed at the Commonwealth Conference at Kingston (see p 184) and received support from the United States Government and governments in Europe. It now held a central part of the stage in the world dialogue between industrial and primary producing countries.

Britain's Economic Situation

Unemployment and Production

Britain shared with almost every advanced country and many other countries the interlocked problems of inflation and depression, said the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson (*Hansard*, 19.11.75, cols 28-51), in the debate on the address following the Queen's speech (see p 464). Between the last quarter of 1973 and July 1975 unemployment had risen by 90 per cent in Britain, 56 per cent in Japan, 84 per cent in the United States, 113 per cent in France and 265 per cent in the Federal Republic of Germany. The fall in industrial production between the 1973 peak and the second quarter of 1975 had been 9 per cent in Britain, 10·75 per cent in the Federal Republic of Germany, 12 per cent in France, 13 per cent in the United States, 14·75 per cent in Italy and 16·75 per cent in Japan.

Speaking later in the debate (*Hansard*, 25.11.75, cols 694-712), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Denis Healey, said that the British economy may have begun to emerge from the bottom of the recession. Some economic indicators – for example, the trend in industrial production and retail sales – had shown approximate stability in the past three or four months. House building was continuing to increase and the October inquiry by the Confederation of British Industry had shown an improvement in most of the key indicators, including the general state of confidence and prospects for investment. The rate of increase in unemployment had been falling in recent months but unemployment was likely to continue increasing for some months into 1976 as a consequence of the fall in output in the second half of 1975. The £75 million-worth of selective measures announced in September (see p 409) were likely to save as many jobs in about three months as £1,000 million-worth of demand reflation could save in a year; the temporary employment subsidy had already saved 7,500 jobs and there had been a fall of 25,000 in the number of unemployed school-leavers compared with October. The measures taken to encourage new investment had prompted a substantial increase in private investment. The Government was considering further selective measures intended to save or create jobs during the recession, as well as ways of avoiding bottlenecks when output rose rapidly; these means would include a substantial further expansion of training facilities and help to those who became redundant in certain industries to move to vacancies in other industries.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR)

Mr Healey said that the size of the PSBR was likely to be somewhat higher in the current financial year than had been forecast in April (see p 198), partly because the recession had been deeper than had then been expected, and that meant less tax revenue and higher expenditure on National Insurance benefits. However, there had been no significant addition flowing from policy changes, nor was any addition foreseen. The PSBR could be financed without intensifying inflation or producing unacceptable increases in the money supply because companies were investing less than normal and – as in the rest of the developed world – private saving represented a higher than normal proportion of earnings. The Government intended to limit the size of the PSBR as economic recovery resumed, by increasing its revenue, reducing its expenditure, or a combination of both. The emphasis would have to be put on reductions in the planned level of expenditure, as there was little scope for increasing taxation without unacceptable consequences in other areas of the economy. Approximately half of the public expenditure programmes would be covered by cash limits (see p 271). In particular, the local authorities would have cash limits imposed on much of their capital spending and fixed for the rate support grant (see p 495).

Rambouillet Summit

Mr Wilson said that the central theme of the Rambouillet summit conference (see p 483) had been unemployment, with the related problem of inflation. The leaders of the six leading industrial countries – accounting for over half the world's trade and a current total of 12·5 million unemployed – had not sought to take decisions and impose them on the rest of the world trading community. 'Everything we said', added the Prime Minister, 'will be pursued through national institutions of our own and the relevant established international organisation.'

Import Controls

Referring to the problem of import controls, the Prime Minister said: 'On the action to deal with abnormal and damaging imports where they threaten even the existence of sectors of industry in this country suffering now from imports but viable and competitive in recovery conditions, I told my colleagues at Rambouillet exactly what I said in the House on 4 November, and what I said was fully understood at Rambouillet'. [On 4 November Mr Wilson had said, in answer to a parliamentary question, that the Government did not rule out protective measures for particular industries suffering or threatened with serious injury as a result of increased imports, but it did not believe that a

generalised system of import controls was right for Britain. The Government was determined to do its best to sustain world trade. See *Hansard*, 4.11.75, cols 222-4.]

Attack on Inflation

The Prime Minister stated that more than 2 million workers were covered by major pay settlements within the limits approved by Parliament, and nine wages councils covering 600,000 workers had accepted proposals for increases in statutory minimum wage rates in line with the policy (see p 318). 'The nation', Mr Wilson added, 'must expect to face a period in which there is an absolute temporary reduction in living standards measured by the relationship between earnings and prices.'

In his speech Mr Healey said that between June and October the retail price index had risen by only 3·9 per cent. This meant that inflation had been running at well under half the rate which had prevailed during the first half of the year.

Balance of Payments

Mr Wilson said that since 1974 Britain had not only wiped out the whole of the non-oil trade deficit but had also covered one-third of that part of the deficit resulting from the increase in oil prices. Mr Healey later warned, however, that it would be difficult to maintain this rate of progress in the next 12 months as the expected recovery in Britain's output led to increased imports and the rebuilding of stocks.

Energy

By 1980, the Prime Minister said, Britain expected to be producing as much oil as it would be consuming in that year, and would be producing 90 per cent of all the oil production in the area of the European Community and 45 per cent of the Community's total indigenous energy – oil, gas, coal and nuclear power. Britain's potential North Sea reserves had been valued at £200,000 million, at least 50 per cent more than the reserves so far discovered round the coastline of the United States, including that of Alaska.

Exports

In a speech given at the Institute of Exports dinner in London on 3 November, Mr Healey said that in the first ten months of 1975 the value of Britain's visible exports (that is, exports of goods) had been more than 17 per cent higher than in the same period of 1974. The increase in the value of shipments to the oil-exporting countries over the same period had been 95 per cent, and Mr Healey believed there was scope for Britain to do much better still in these countries and to improve the country's export performance in the developed countries, particularly North America.

The Chancellor also mentioned the prominent part played by the institute, in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board (see p 170, 1972) and other bodies, in developing the new Foundation Course in Overseas Trade for which nearly 800 students had recently enrolled in 35 colleges and polytechnics.

Industry Act 1975

The Industry Act 1975 came into force on 20 November having received the Royal Assent on 12 November.[1] It gives effect to the proposals set out in the White Paper, *The Regeneration of British Industry* (see p 386, 1974) and is intended to help Government resources to be used more effectively in support of industry. It also recognises the need for workers in industry to have knowledge of the problems, opportunities and prospects of the companies in which they work if they are to take a constructive part in industry. The Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Eric Varley, who summarised the Act in an article in *Trade and Industry* on 21 November, said that these two principles were fundamental to the Act and that there had been no compromise on them. In formulating its legislative proposals, however, the Government had given great weight to the consultations it had had with both sides of industry and the Act had benefited greatly from these.

The framework of the Act remains broadly as described in the Bill (see p 104). The four main provisions are those listed below.

The National Enterprise Board

The board's chairman, deputy chairman and a number of members were announced on 27 November, and the first meeting of the board, with Lord Ryder as chairman, was held on the same day in its offices at 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1. The National Enterprise Board will be a major industrial holding company: existing Government shareholdings, such as those in Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd, British Leyland and Ferranti, will be transferred to it, giving it from the start a group of subsidiaries employing some 250,000 workers. The holdings will grow steadily in the course of years. The board will act as a commercial undertaking, subject to the Companies Act, the Fair Trading legislation and the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers, alongside companies in the private sector, and without special privileges. Mr Varley said that those leading the enterprise would be men of outstanding ability drawn from both sides of industry, who were committed to the success of this venture.

The three statutory purposes of the board are: the development or assistance of the economy of Britain or part of Britain; the promotion in any part of Britain of industrial efficiency and international competitiveness; and the provision, maintenance or safeguarding of productive employment in any part of Britain. To achieve its purposes the board will have access under the Act to sums of up to £1,000 million.

Powers Relating to Foreign Control

The power to prohibit the takeover of an important manufacturing undertaking by a non-resident, and the power to acquire compulsorily the assets or shares which are threatened with such a takeover or have been taken over, may only be used where the probability of transfer of control appears contrary to Britain's national interest. If the Secretary of State thinks that compulsory acquisition is necessary in order to protect the national interest, all the shares of a company threatened with a takeover may be

[1] *Industry Act 1975*. HMSO, 75p. ISBN 0 10 546875 4.

vested. All Orders under this part of the Act must be approved by Parliament.

Planning Agreements

A planning agreement is defined as a voluntary arrangement as to the strategic plans of a company (or group) made between the company and any Minister of the Crown and referring to the future development in Britain of the company. Regional development grants and selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 can be given to the companies which have made planning agreements, where these contribute to national needs and objectives, and the new Act safeguards the recipient of a regional development grant against changes that might occur after the conclusion of the agreement through variations in the rate of grant or in definitions of qualifying expenditure or classification of assisted areas.

Disclosure of Information

The Act contains provisions for the disclosure of information by the Government, as well as the disclosure by firms as required in the Bill. The Treasury will make available to members of the public a model of the economy and will also provide, twice a year, forecasts produced with the aid of a model on alternative assumptions. Access to the model will not be dependent upon conclusion of a planning agreement. The Government will be prepared to discuss with companies which enter into planning agreements how the company's prospects are likely to be affected by the developments in the national economy.

The Minister may act to obtain certain information of a planning nature from a company if he believes the information is needed to form or further national economic policy or for consultations with the Government, employers or workers on the outlook for a particular sector of manufacturing industry, including the outlook for the major firms in the sector. If voluntary arrangements will not suffice, the Minister may make an Order requiring the company to provide him with specified information within the limits set by the Act. Upon receipt of the information he may provisionally require some or all of it to be furnished to the authorised representatives of the relevant trade unions, unless this would be contrary to the national interest, or a breach of confidence, or likely to cause substantial injury to the interest of the company or its employees. An advisory committee will arbitrate if a firm contends that special reasons prevent it from disclosing information to the trade union representatives, or if a representative wishes to contest the Minister's decision not to disclose information to the trade union. Information supplied has to be kept confidential within the Government until disclosure is finally required.

Average Earnings in 1975

Summary information on earnings and hours of work in Great Britain in April 1975, derived from the New Earnings Survey (NES) 1975 (see p 496), has been published in the November 1975 issue of *Department of Employment Gazette* (HMSO, 90p, ISBN 0 11 723825 2). The NES is a sample survey, the data of which are obtained from employers under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947; the resulting information is strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes.

The survey, which covers some 157,000 workers representing a full-time workforce of 10·3 million men aged 21 and over and 4·7 million women aged 18 and over whose pay was not affected by absence, relates to the pay week or other pay period which included 16 April 1975. The results are, therefore, not necessarily representative of pay over a longer period and do not take account of subsequent changes in rates of pay which have become effective since that date or changes which have been introduced with retrospective effect since the survey returns were completed.

Manual Workers

The average gross weekly earnings of full-time men manual workers aged 21 and over were about £55·70; those of full-time women manual workers aged 18 and over were about £32·10. Half the men earned between £44·10 and £64·50 a week; about 2 per cent earned over £100 and about 2 per cent under £30. Earnings averaged about £1·22 an hour; about 24 per cent earned less than £1 an hour and 17 per cent more than £1·50 an hour. Half the women earned between £25·80 and £37·10 a week; about 4 per cent earned over £50 and about 7 per cent under £20. Earnings averaged about 82p an hour; about 17 per cent earned more than £1 an hour and about 4 per cent less than 50p an hour.

Average weekly hours (excluding main meal breaks) were about 40 basic and about 5·5 overtime for men, and about 38·5 basic and 1 overtime for women. Of the men, about 57 per cent received some overtime pay, about 41 per cent payments-by-results and other such payments and about 23 per cent shift and other premium payments. For women, the corresponding figures were 15 per cent, 31 per cent and 10 per cent.

Non-manual Workers

The average gross weekly earnings of full-time men non-manual workers aged 21 and over were about £68·40; those of full-time women non-manual workers aged 18 and over were about £39·60. Half the men earned between £47·90 and £80·20 a week; about 2 per cent earned over £150 and about 2 per cent under £30. Among the women, half earned between £28·80 and £45·70 a week; about 3 per cent earned over £80 and 3 per cent under £20.

Average weekly hours for non-manual workers were about 37·25 basic and about 1·5 overtime for men, and about 36·25 basic and about half-an-hour overtime for women (overtime hours were reported only if they resulted in additional pay). Relatively few non-manual workers received overtime pay, payments-by-results, bonus or commission, or shift and other premium payments.

Annual Increases

Matched samples allowed comparisons to be made of increases in average earnings for specific groups of workers from April to April over the years.

Increases between 1972 and 1973 were affected by the incomes standstill (see p 479, 1972) and those between 1973 and 1974 by Stages Two and Three of the counter-inflation policy (see pp 170, 497, 1973) and by the removal of anomalies created by the timing of the standstill (see p 402, 1973). Increases between 1974 and 1975 were affected by Stage Three and settlements made under the terms of the Social Contract (see p 271, 1974).

The survey shows that increases in weekly earnings between April 1974 and April 1975 were, for full-time men, 31·9 per cent for manual workers and 27·8 per cent for non-manual workers, and, for full-time women, 37·7 per cent for manual workers and 38·8 per cent for non-manual workers. (These figures exclude the effect of overtime, which varies in amount with cyclical movements in the economy.) In the previous two years up to April 1974 and up to April 1973, the equivalent increases respectively for full-time men were 14·2 and 15·1 per cent for manual workers and 15 and 12·8 per cent for non-manual workers; for full-time women, 19·9 and 16·2 per cent for manual workers and 19·3 and 13·7 per cent for non-manual workers.[1] The greater average increases for women reflect progress towards equal pay. The figures also reflect the tendency in recent years for the earnings of manual workers to increase more rapidly than those of non-manual workers.

Earnings by age group

The analyses of earnings by age group showed that, among men, earnings for manual workers rose on average with age up to between 30 and 40 and then fell, while among non-manual workers average earnings rose up to between the ages of 40 and 50. Average earnings for women were highest between 25 and 30 in manual occupations, but the variation between age groups was considerably less than among men. For women non-manual workers average earnings were £43 in each age group from 30 to 60.

Regional Earnings

Regional differences in average earnings were relatively small compared with differences between occupations and age-groups. Among full-time men, average weekly earnings for manual workers ranged from £50·90 in South West England to £57·90 in Northern England, and for non-manual workers from £63·70 in South West England to £73·70 in South East England. Among full-time women, average weekly earnings for manual workers ranged from £30·60 in the East Midlands to £34·20 in South East England, and for non-manual workers from £36·40 in East Anglia to £43 in the South East.

Post Office

NEW RESEARCH CENTRE

The Post Office's new research centre at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, the most advanced centre in Europe for telecommunications research, was officially opened by the Queen on 21 November. Construction began in 1970 and occupation of the buildings started in 1973. When completed, the project will have cost nearly £11 million. It will then replace the original research centre at Dollis Hill (Greater London) where Post Office research has led to many major developments, such as Britain's satellite earth station at Goonhilly Down (Cornwall), and long-life transistors which have made possible high capacity submarine telephone cables carrying up to 4,000 telephone conversations at once. Virtually all the Post Office's research and development expenditure, about £27 million a year, is on telecommunications. Current work at Martlesham Heath includes projects such as 'viewdata', a system in which a caller's television set is linked to his telephone allowing him to dial for a display of information to be flashed on his television screen, and the development of a modern telephone exchange which will be able to connect calls more rapidly and to provide services such as the automatic transfer of calls to another telephone number, automatic alarm calls and warning a customer engaged in a telephone conversation of an incoming call.

The centre's main buildings are a laboratory block, a radio tower, a research services workshop and an administrative block. Eventually it will employ 1,800 people including 850 research engineers and scientists, of whom 600 will be graduates with degrees or equivalent qualifications.

NEW SATELLITE EARTH STATION

The Post Office announced on 18 November that it had placed a contract for initial construction work for the first phase of a project to build a new satellite communication earth station on an 80-acre (32-hectare) site near Madley (Hereford and Worcester). A new station is required because of the rapid growth in international telecommunications; satellites now carry a growing number of international telephone, telex and data calls, and television programmes. The three aerials at Goonhilly Down handle an annual total of 8·5 million telephone calls, over half the inter-continental calls into and out of Britain. Madley was chosen as an 'electrically quiet' area free from other radio interference. The first phase at Madley will involve the construction of three buildings and other work required for up to three earth terminals, each equipped with one dish aerial. The first aerial should be in service early in 1978 and will work in conjunction with a satellite over the Indian Ocean, handling all satellite telecommunications between Britain and the eastern hemisphere from the late 1970s to the early 1980s. It will replace Goonhilly 1 which will be used temporarily for communications across the Atlantic and then become a reserve aerial. Two further aerials will probably be required at Madley towards the end of the 1970s to meet the expected growth in services across the Atlantic. Eventually Madley will have six aerials, but the second stage of constructing terminals for three further aerials will not begin until the 1980s.

[1] Increases in real earnings were much lower; the index of retail prices rose by 9·2 per cent between April 1972 and April 1973, by 15·2 per cent between April 1973 and April 1974 and by 21·7 per cent between April 1974 and April 1975.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Health and Social Services

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME

Details of seven United Kingdom pilot projects approved by the European Commission as part of the European Community's anti-poverty programme were announced on 28 November by the Commission. The anti-poverty programme was authorised by the Council of Ministers in June 1975 and the cost of projects is divided equally between the Commission and member states. The seven United Kingdom projects are:

1 A day centre experimenting with different approaches to the task of helping the poorest families to counter deprivations resulting from extreme poverty. Seven voluntary organisations from various parts of the country will work together on the project.

2 An area resource centre, set up by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, which will be located in a major city and will give advice and technical aid and equipment to field workers and local groups, especially self-help groups.

3 The South Wales Anti-Poverty Action Group which is a consortium of local groups combating deprivation. The consortium is creating a resource centre which will employ a lawyer, a community worker and a research and development officer.

4 The Lothian Social and Community Development Programme, a local authority project in Edinburgh, aimed at areas where poverty is most concentrated. It will attempt to involve the local community in decision-taking and to foster greater self-confidence among the poor themselves.

5 The Craigmillar Festival Society in Edinburgh which is to form a professional team of social planners, architects, artists and educationists, which will reinforce an existing team of local people in a plan to enhance the physical, social and cultural amenities of a small part of the city.

6 The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux project which is attempting to improve the effectiveness of bureaux in advising on rights of appeal to social security tribunals and securing the appearance of lay advocates before these tribunals.

7 Two surveys, planned by the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services, which aim at improving the effectiveness of Government and other services in housing, health and education and at assessing the part played by voluntary action in meeting social needs.

In addition, the European Community is contributing to two 'cross-national' projects. The first is a survey of poverty in Britain, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, in which the Institute of Community Studies, London, will collaborate with organisations in Paris and Bonn-Bad Godesberg; the survey will investigate the composition of poverty groups and the operation of the social services.

The second is a survey of various aspects of poverty in the nine Community countries. From 1976 an additional questionnaire will be added to a regular survey which is carried out on behalf of the Commission among consumers in 5,000 homes in each member state to ascertain their views on the current economic situation. The survey in Britain will be undertaken by Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Limited, a market research organisation.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The phasing out of lower rates of contribution by married women and some widows to the national insurance scheme is to begin in April 1977.

Under regulations published in November employed women who marry after 5 April 1977 will not be able to opt out of paying full national insurance contributions. An employed married woman or widow, who on 6 April 1977 has already 'opted out', will retain her right not to pay full contributions. An employed woman widowed before 6 April 1978 will also retain this right; if she is widowed on or after this date her right will only continue if, at the date of widowhood, she has already 'opted out' as a married woman. A right not to pay full contributions will end following a break in employment lasting for two consecutive income tax years.

NEW NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CHARGES

An improved system of dental and optical charges in the National Health Service (NHS) was announced by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mrs Barbara Castle, in a written reply to a parliamentary question on 20 November (*Hansard*, cols 2-6). The revised charges will operate from 1 January 1976 and bring in an additional £16 million a year.

Dental Charges

The present maximum charge of £10 per course of dental treatment (excluding dentures) is to be reduced to £3·50. There will be a maximum of £12 for a course of treatment which includes dentures. The result of the change is that patients requiring extensive treatment will pay substantially less while the less extensive course of treatment will cost more.

Optical Charges

Increased charges for NHS spectacle frames will represent the price of each frame as supplied to the optician. In addition, flat-rate charges for the different kinds of spectacle lens will replace the present cost-related charges. This will entail an increase of some £2-£3 a pair for the majority of patients needing relatively simple lenses but the minority requiring the most powerful and expensive lenses will not have much more to pay and some will have a reduction. Mrs Castle said that legislation would be introduced exempting registered blind and partially sighted people from optical charges, as many of these people can be helped by spectacles.

A wide range of improvements are being made for children needing spectacles. A plastics NHS frame is to be made available free of charge (at present the only NHS frames free of charge for children are wire or wire-ended). Plastics single-vision lenses are to become free of charge to children with poor eyesight; these will replace the present glass lenses which are often heavy and sometimes unattractive to the wearer. Mrs Castle said that the Government was proposing to remove the charge made for supplying contact lenses to children through the hospital eye service.

A better choice of NHS frames is to be made available for adults. Mrs Castle said that the NHS failed to provide an adequate range of attractive frames which meant that large numbers of people, including those on low incomes, paid for privately supplied frames often at considerable expense. Negotiations are therefore to be opened with the manufacturers and the ophthalmic profession to secure their co-operation in the provision of a wider choice of attractive modern frames at reasonable cost under NHS arrangements. Mrs Castle also said that the prices of privately supplied spectacle frames and lenses were to be referred by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to the Price Commission for investigation.

Exemption from Charges

Mrs Castle pointed out that many people were automatically exempt from charges (children and those people in receipt of supplementary and other benefits). Expectant mothers and women who have had a child within the previous 12 months are exempt from dental charges. Other people qualify for help with charges on grounds of low income. The Secretary of State said that the scope of this help was to be widened; the margin above supplementary benefit level taken into account in assessing the income of people claiming help with charges is being increased from £1·50 to £2·50. This, together with the increase in the amount of income disregarded in the calculation of supplementary benefit (see p 489, 1974), will mean that more people with low incomes will be relieved of the whole or part of the charges.

Greater London Development Plan

A statement by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Anthony Crosland, containing certain policy conclusions reached by the Government about the Greater London Development Plan (GLDP) was published in October.[1] In his introduction, Mr Crosland recalls that the GLDP was submitted by the Greater London Council (GLC), after many years' prior preparation, in 1969, and was later the subject of an inquiry by the Layfield Panel whose report was published in December 1972 (see pp 138-41, 1973). The Government has reviewed the panel's recommendations and considers that it is important now to reach firm conclusions about the plan which, when it is approved, will become the structure plan for the Greater London area. Mr Crosland points out that a structure plan lays down broad planning policies and strategies, setting out a context within which local policies can be discussed and elaborated. The GLDP will not entail a fixed and inflexible pattern for London's development, but, without it, rational planning at the level of the London boroughs (which have local planning responsibilities) on such matters as transport, employment and housing, will be unable to progress.

Much of the statement reiterates views already expressed by the Government at the time of publication of the Layfield Panel's report, but it also includes conclusions reached after further consideration given to a number of points.

Population and Employment

The Government accepts the view that London's population is likely in the future to be smaller than was envisaged at the time the plan was submitted. It asks the GLC to write into the plan the latest population projection figures, and thereafter to update them from time to time, since this information will be necessary in determining the scale of resources required for the implementation of strategic policies and plans. (The estimated population of Greater London in mid-1974 was approximately 7·2 million compared with over 8·3 million in 1951.)

On the question of employment, the Government accepts the need to reduce congestion in the inner areas of London. Office development should be encouraged to disperse to locations away from central London and a restrictive policy for development in central London itself should continue. The Government endorses the GLC's proposals for specific designation of 28 established strategic centres for the further development of urban services and accepts the GLC's suggested list of preferred

[1] *Greater London Development Plan: Statement by the Rt Hon Anthony Crosland, MP.* HMSO, 38p. ISBN 0 11 750916 7.

locations for office and industrial employment within each of the London boroughs.

Housing and New Towns

The Government endorses the panel's view that there needs to be an effective strategic housing authority for Greater London and states that the present temporary powers of the GLC to exercise the functions of a primary housing authority, under the London Government Act of 1963, will accordingly remain in force. The GLC will be expected to produce, publish and keep up to date a realistic total housing programme for Greater London.

On the subject of residential densities, the Government believes that in the future housing for families with children should normally be in a lower density range than that proposed either by the GLC or the panel, and considers that from 70 to 100 habitable rooms per acre would be appropriate. In view of the widespread pressure to convert houses in central London to other uses – such as hotels – the Government believes that there must be specific policies for preserving the existing residential uses of land and buildings and considers it important that efforts should be made to restore property originally built for residential use to that purpose, especially in central London, 'where piecemeal conversion has changed the character of many formerly desirable residential areas'.

While accepting that a policy in support of the new and expanding towns is necessary as part of a comprehensive London housing policy, the Government considers that to write into the plan a target figure for Londoners moving out each year – such as the 30,000 suggested by the panel – could give 'a spurious impression of precision in a field where precision is neither appropriate nor attainable'. It proposes that the plan should refer to 'the need for a substantial commitment of the same order as the present programme' – that is, about 20,000 a year – and that the position should be kept under review in relation to industry, employment and population in London and the availability of economic resources.

Transport, Traffic and Roads

The Government welcomes the steps being taken by the GLC to develop a balanced transport policy with emphasis on public transport and the restraint of road traffic. It considers that, while wholesale changes in the statutory responsibilities for planning and managing London's public transport are not called for at present, co-ordination between the responsible authorities should be strengthened, especially in respect of commuter rail services. It recognises the crucial place of traffic management in enabling buses to move more freely and in protecting shopping and residential streets from excessive traffic, and endorses the need for the GLC to continue parking controls and to consider other measures to moderate the volume of private traffic, especially at peak periods.

Dealing with major road construction proposals contained in the original plan, and with the modifications subsequently proposed by the panel, the Government draws attention both to the costs of building an extensive road network and to the growth of public concern over the reconciliation of the needs of road traffic and the environmental consequences of large-scale road building. It points out that the present GLC has rejected most of the proposals for new primary roads contained in the plan as submitted. The statement then goes on to outline the Government's view of the system of primary orbital and radial routes which should serve the Greater London area; this would involve the abandonment of the innermost Ringway 1 and part of the intermediate Ringway 2 proposed in the original plan, extensions to the existing North Circular Road and the use of the outer orbital motorway (M25) now under construction. The Government considers that, with the abandonment of part of the Ringway proposals, better provision for orbital movement of traffic should be made by 'a carefully balanced programme of improvements and traffic management'. Some new roads may need to be built, but the best use will be made of those already existing. It believes that all primary radial routes should terminate either at an orbital route or at a point where traffic can disperse easily on to the secondary network or where people will be induced to change from private to public transport. The statement outlines proposals designed to achieve this and illustrates diagramatically the general primary road pattern which would result from the Government's proposals, stressing that those would allow the council 'a measure of flexibility for forward planning'. So far as secondary roads are concerned, the Government states that alterations to the network will be considered on their merits and incorporated in the plan at the time of periodic up-datings.

Other Topics

Several other topics are referred to briefly in the statement. For example, the Government proposes to make certain changes and modifications in the section of the plan dealing with the urban landscape; it suggests revisions to proposals made by the panel, so as to re-emphasise the importance of open land and the London Green Belt; and it agrees with the GLC that the plan should have a separate section dealing with policies relating to the Thames and other waterways.

Welsh Television Channel

The transmission and programme production costs of setting up a Welsh language service on a fourth television channel in Wales would be (at early-1975 prices) about £8·85 million in capital expenditure and about £5·03 million in annual operational expenditure. These estimates are contained in the report[1] of a working party appointed by the Home Secretary in January 1975, in the light of the recommendations made by the Crawford Committee (see pp 495-6, 1974), to work out the arrangements that would be required to provide a fourth television service in Wales. At present there are three television channels: two operated by the British Broadcasting

[1] *Report of the Working Party on a Fourth Television Service in Wales.* Cmnd 6290. HMSO, Cardiff, £1·80. ISBN 0 10 162900 1.

Corporation (BBC) and one by the independent television companies under the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) – in Wales, HTV Wales (Harlech Television). The BBC's regional service – BBC Wales – and HTV Wales together transmit about 12·5 hours of Welsh language programmes a week.

The BBC and IBA, says the report, would share responsibility for installing, operating and maintaining the additional transmitters and equipment necessary for the fourth channel. Assuming that finance would be available, the report estimates that transmission to about 90 per cent of the population of Wales could begin within about 32 months of approval being received to start work. BBC Wales and HTV Wales propose to share the fourth service, each contributing 12·5 hours to the initial target of 25 hours a week in Welsh. Although the fourth channel would be primarily an evening service, Welsh programmes would have to be augmented by some programmes in English. Welsh programmes would no longer be transmitted on the existing channels.

The report states that the BBC, IBA and HTV have indicated that they are not in a position simply to finance the requirements for a fourth television channel from their own resources. The IBA and HTV would be able to implement their parts of the service only if the addition to their current expenditures were met by subsidy. The BBC would be able to meet the costs of transmission and production from its own resources only if these were covered by additional revenue from licence fees. Although it recognises that there is as yet no Government commitment to financing a fourth service in Wales from public funds, the report recommends that the most appropriate arrangement for this purpose would be that of an annual grant-in-aid. Any such arrangement, it adds, should be reviewed regularly in the light of changing circumstances, including any decisions taken after the Committee of Inquiry into the Future of Broadcasting has reported (see p 193, 1974).

Arts Council Annual Report

Government grant-in-aid to the Arts Council of Great Britain – £21·3 million in 1974-75 – has nearly trebled over the last seven years, according to the council's thirtieth annual report published in November.[1] In the year under review, grants of £2·65 million and £1·4 million were given, respectively, to the Royal Opera House and the English National Opera Company; the National Theatre Company and the Royal Shakespeare Company received sums of £1,017,000 and £694,000; and the London Orchestral Board was granted over £400,000. The twelve Regional Arts Associations in England received grants totalling over £1·7 million in support of a wide range of local activities; some £862,000 was spent enabling opera, ballet and theatre companies to visit towns and cities outside London; and a total of £890,000 went towards sponsoring ballet other than the Royal Ballet.

[1] *The Arts Council of Great Britain, Thirtieth Annual Report and Accounts 1974-75.* Available from the Publications Office, The Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU. £1. ISBN 0 7287 0061 1.

Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Literature

More than £1·3 million was distributed in grants to orchestras throughout Great Britain, while over £71,000 was given to assist 14 musical festivals. Total audiences for the concerts given by the nine symphony orchestras subsidised by the Arts Council are estimated in the report at over 1·7 million people. Other forms of assistance given to music included awards of nearly £35,000 to composers, and the setting up, in co-operation with the Regional Arts Associations, of a *Contemporary Music Network*, enabling programmes of new music to be given in various parts of the country.

The council gave support to more than seventy companies operating in their own theatres, whose audiences totalled between six and seven million. In addition, some £500,000 was spent supporting theatre for young people, over £220,000 on fringe and experimental drama, and about £85,000 sponsoring new dramatic works.

Some 67 art exhibitions were shown with the aid of Arts Council grants and guarantees; of these 42 were newly assembled, 51 toured the regions, and 18 were presented in the council's own galleries in London (the Hayward and the Serpentine Galleries). Attendances at the London galleries are estimated at just under 500,000 people, and those for the touring exhibitions at a further 500,000.

Almost £200,000 was spent by the council on literature, some £55,000 going in grants to individual writers and poets, and about £34,000 to literary magazines. A total of £17,000 was distributed in grants to small printing presses, and *The New Review* was launched as a monthly forum for writers.

Scotland

The Scottish Arts Council's share of the grant for 1974-75 was over £2·4 million. During the year, the council received about 800 applications and gave approximately 600 grants, 23 per cent of expenditure going to drama, 18 per cent going to opera, 15 per cent to music, 12 per cent to art and literature, and 9 per cent to ballet.

The audiences of Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet totalled about 147,000 and 60,500, respectively; some 137,000 people attended concerts given by the Scottish National Orchestra and the Scottish Philharmonic Society; and about 500,000 people saw one of the seven resident theatre companies supported by the council. Grants totalling £420,000 were made during the year to help Scottish Opera purchase and modernise the Theatre Royal, which opened in October 1975 as a base for its performances in Glasgow. Some £77,000 was spent on exhibitions of living artists' work, and about £36,000 on direct grants to artists. Book awards, bursaries and travel grants brought the total spent on help to writers to nearly £22,000.

Wales

The Welsh Arts Council, whose share of the grant was nearly £1·9 million, reports the opening in May

1974 of *Oriel,* its own gallery and bookshop in Cardiff, which showed 17 exhibitions by the end of the year. A new regional theatre, Theatr Gwynedd, was opened in Bangor; a Welsh Dance Theatre was launched, and a programme of new ballets (commissioned with help from the Gulbenkian Foundation) subsequently toured Wales. The council provided some £47,500 to help enlarge the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, which gave 21 concerts during the year. Some £130,250 was spent on literature, and support for the Welsh Books Council, totalling £32,165, was designed to help publishers to improve standards of editing, publicity and distribution.

DOCUMENTATION

(Documentation excludes publications referred to in Survey articles)

Government and Administration

The Monarchy in Britain. COI, R5526.

The British Parliament. COI, R5448.

Residence in Britain. Notes for the Guidance of Persons from Overseas. COI, R5589.

Palace of Westminster (*Security*). The Speaker of the House of Commons has announced details of a committee to be set up jointly with the House of Lords to consider the (unpublished) review of security in the Houses of Parliament carried out by a former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (see p 337, 1974). *Hansard*, 31.10.75, col 1947.

Register of Members' Interests as on 1 November 1975. The purpose of this House of Commons register is to provide information of any pecuniary interest or other material benefit which members of the House may receive which may be thought to affect their conduct as members or influence their actions, speeches or votes in Parliament. For the nine specific classifications under which members have been required to register their interests see p 7. HMSO, £1·50. ISBN 0 10 009565 8.

The Distribution of Criminal Business between the Crown Court and Magistrates' Courts. The report's central theme is that the existing rules governing the allocation of cases should be replaced by a simpler system dividing cases into three categories: those triable only on indictment, those triable only summarily, and those triable either summarily or on indictment (the latter would carry a right for the defendant to elect trial by jury in the Crown Court). Cmnd 6323. HMSO, £2. ISBN 0 10 163230 4.

Digest of Welsh Statistics No 21 1975. HMSO, £3·90. ISBN 0 11 790063 X.

Cayman Islands 1974. Report for the year 1974. HMSO, £1·35. ISBN 0 11 580170 7.

External Affairs and Defence

Declaration on the Development of Friendly Relations between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Polish People's Republic. Cmnd 6260. HMSO, 22p. ISBN 0 10 162600 2. (Follows talks held between the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Callaghan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic, Mr S. Olszowski, during Mr Callaghan's visit to Poland from 13 to 15 July 1975. Both sides expressed their determination to 'work in the spirit of this Declaration for the more rapid development of relations between the United Kingdom and Poland in all fields; they express their conviction that this will be an important contribution to the progress of *détente*, the improvement of relations between the countries of Europe and the consolidation of peace and security in Europe'.)

Arbitration Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic. Cmnd 6280. HMSO, 22p. ISBN 0 10 162800 5. (An agreement to set up a Court of Arbitration to settle differences between the two Governments, concerning the delimitation of the portion of the continental shelf westwards of 30 minutes west of the Greenwich meridian, as far as the 1,000 metre isobath.)

Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on Cane Sugar (see p 315). Cmnd 6273. HMSO, 12p. ISBN 0 10 162730 0.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Developments in the European Communities April-October 1975. Cmnd 6349. HMSO, 45p. ISBN 0 10 163490 0.

Loans to Northern Ireland. Provision for an increase in the limit of loans which may be made to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund out of the National Loans Fund to £800 million (with power to increase this to £1,000 million by Order subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Commons) has been made in the Northern Ireland (Loans) Bill (*Hansard*, 20.11.75, col 183). The Bill which had its second reading on 28 November (*Hansard*, col 1209) also provides for such loans to be made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Treasury.

Criminal Injuries to Property in Northern Ireland. A committee, consisting of a chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and representatives from the insurance, loss adjusters, legal and valuation professions, together with members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service as assessors, has been set up to review legislation for compensation for criminal injuries to property in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Office press notice, 20.11.75.

The Rate Support Grant 1976-77. The Government has announced that the Rate Support Grant (given to local authorities to help finance their expenditure) for 1976-77 should be at a rate of 65·5 per cent (slightly less than the 66·5 per cent given in 1975-76) on accepted relevant expenditure of £10,461 million at November 1975 prices. This expenditure represents a standstill on the present estimate of current expenditure by local authorities in 1975-76. The total amount of additional grant payable in 1976-77 (towards the cost of pay and price increases that occur after the settlement) will be subject to a cash limit (see p 434) of £480 million. *Hansard*, 21.11.75, written answers, col 10.

Minimum Lending Rate (*MLR*). The Bank of England's MLR was reduced by 0·25 per cent to 11.75 per cent on 14 November. Economic Progress Report No 69, prepared by the Information Division of the Treasury. Available from Circulation Section (H), COI.

The National Giro. A Government White Paper explaining the background and details of measures designed to set Giro on a sound financial basis upon which to develop its banking services and expand its business was published on 24 November (see p 171). [On the same day the Post Office (Banking Services) Bill was introduced whereby, subject to the approval of Parliament, the capital reconstruction of Giro will take effect from 1 April 1975.] *The Development of National Giro*, Cmnd 6344. HMSO, 20p. ISBN 0 10 163440 4.

Building Society Mortgages. A report on the 5 per cent sample survey of building society mortgages describes the survey which is the principal source of detailed official statistics in the private sector housing market, and brings together the figures for the period 1966-74 during which the average house price trebled. The results covered by the report include average figures for prices of dwellings, mortgage advances, deposits and recorded annual income of borrowers; the variability of prices, advances and recorded incomes; and the proportion of new owner-occupiers. *The five per cent sample survey of building society mortgages*, A. W. Evans, Department of the Environment, Studies in Official Statistics No 26 (Central Statistical Office), HMSO, 95p. ISBN 0 11 630145 7.

International Trade 1974-75. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Available through HMSO. £5·40. ISBN 0 11 982222 9.

Agreement establishing the Inter-American Development Bank (with proposed amendments, including those to admit non-regional countries as members of the bank) and Declaration of Madrid of 17 December 1974. Cmnd 6271. HMSO, 55p. ISBN 0 10 162710 6.

Overseas Aid: A Brief Survey. Britain and the Developing Countries. COI, R5762/75.

English Tourist Board. Report for the year ended 31 March 1975. English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DU. 60p.

British Tourist Authority. Report for the year ended March 1975. British Tourist Authority, Queen's House, 64 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1NF. 60p. ISBN 0 85630 123 X.

The 1975 Survey of Professional Engineers. Analyses income, nature and type of work, age distribution, fringe benefits, qualifications, location of employment, unemployment, initial education and training and further training, employers and trade union membership. Council of Engineering Institutions, 2 Little Smith Street, London SW1P 3DL. £5.

Employment Protection Act 1975 (see p 212). On 1 January 1976 the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service will be converted into a statutory body under the Act. On 1 February 1976 the Central Arbitration Committee will assume the functions at present carried out by the Industrial Arbitration Board; the Employment Appeal Tribunal will be set up on the same date. Department of Employment press notices, 17.11.75 and 26.11.75.

Changing Patterns of Working Hours. Department of Employment Manpower Paper No 13. The information in this paper is based mainly on case study investigations of flexible working hours, compressed work weeks and staggered working hours in 21 individual organisations. HMSO, 80p. ISBN 0 11 360692 3.

Trade Union and Labour Relations (*Amendment*) *Bill* (see pp 27-9). In a statement in the House of Commons on 12 November (*Hansard*, cols 1533-6) the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Michael Foot, said that agreement with the House of Lords had not yet been reached on arrangements within the newspaper publishing industry which would provide effective safeguards against any risks to the freedom of the Press which might be thought to be involved in the passing of the Bill. (The Bill was reintroduced by the Government in the House of Commons on 26 November. See also *Hansard, HL*, 11.11.75, cols 1688-1757 and *Lords Amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations* (*Amendment*) *Bill*, HMSO, 12p. ISBN 0 10 131355 8.)

International Labour Convention No 83 concerning the Application of International Labour Standards to Non-Metropolitan Territories adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at Its Thirtieth Session. Cmnd 6259. HMSO, 50p. ISBN 0 10 162590 1.

TSA Training Standard: Basic Air Diving and Under-water Working. Training Services Agency. HMSO, £1·50. ISBN 0 9504011 2 9.

Report of Safety, Health, Welfare and Wages in Agriculture. 1 January to 31 December 1973. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 11 241015 4.

Framing Noise Legislation. Report by the Industrial Health Advisory Sub-Committee on Noise. Health and Safety Executive. Available free from the General Information and Public Enquiry Point, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF.

H. M. Chief Inspector of Factories Annual Report 1974. Department of Employment. Cmnd 6322. HMSO, £2·05. ISBN 0 10 163220 7.

New Earnings Survey 1975. Part B. Analyses by Agreement. Department of Employment. As in 1974, publication of the survey will appear in six separate parts, of which this is the first to be issued. HMSO, 80p. ISBN 0 11 723796 5.

Selective Price Restraint. On 6 November the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection issued a consultation document on the selective price restraint scheme proposed in the White Paper, *The Attack of Inflation* (see p 270). The proposals, which are subject to discussion with industry, are (1) that the scheme should run from 1 February to 31 July 1976, provided that it is clear by the end of 1975 that the pay limit (see p 269) is being effectively observed; (2) that prices for the agreed range of items would be held so as not to increase by more than 5 per cent during this six-month period (that is, an annual rate of not more than 10 per cent); (3) that the items to be covered would be agreed, industry by industry, but should be drawn from the whole range of purchases which are important in family expenditure, embracing the public as well as the private sector; (4) that firms would be permitted by an appropriate amendment to the Price Code to cross-subsidise if necessary in order to hold down the prices of items included in the scheme, by means of increasing the prices of less essential items not included; and (5) that there would be special provisions for exempting items subject to unforeseen increases in raw material costs. Available from the Department at 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Policyholders Protection Board. The Government has appointed members of the new Policyholders Protection Board, with Mr Colin North Smith as chairman. The board is being set up under the Policyholders Protection Act 1975, which provides for the protection of people with insurance policies should their insurance company prove unable to meet its liabilities. The scheme will be financed by levies on the insurance industry, and administered by the new board. Department of Trade press notice 20.11.75.

Estate Agents. – Proposals for a licensing system for estate agents and developers selling land or dwellings directly to the public have been put forward by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection in a consultative document. It suggests that the system should be based on that for consumer credit licences under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and administered by the Director General of Fair Trading. Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Room 608, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Hoffman-La Roche (Pharmaceutical products). The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Mrs Williams, made a statement about the settlement reached between the Government and the Hoffman-La Roche Group concerning its ethical pharmaceutical products, including librium and valium. Since the report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in April 1973 (see p 213, 1973) the prices of these products have been controlled by Order, but after negotiations the company has now reached agreement with the Government on a number of issues, one of which is the repayment to the Government of some £3·75 million. The company is also to spend several million pounds on improved research, production and administration facilities in Britain. *Hansard,* 12.11.75, cols 1543-7.

Firework Safety. The Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection listed the new measures to be introduced as a result of the consultative document of firework safety issued in April. Legislation will be required to implement controls on the minimum age of children allowed to buy fireworks. Department of Industry press notice, No 311, 25.11.75, and *Hansard,* 25.11.75, written answers, cols 85-6.

Inflation Accounting. The Government has endorsed the view of the Committee on Inflation Accounting (see pp 351-2) that urgent examination should be made of the practical problems of current cost accounting (CCA) becoming the future basis for company accounts. A steering group is being set up by the accounting profession to consider the issues involved, with a view to the implementation of CCA for accounting periods beginning after 24 December 1977. *Hansard,* 26.11.75, cols 851-2.

An Approach to Industrial Strategy (see p 434). Cmnd 6315. HMSO, 22p. ISBN 0 10 163150 2.

Appendices to strategy alternatives for the British motorcycle industry:—A Report prepared for the Secretary of State for Industry by the Boston Consulting Group Ltd (see p 355). The appendices describe the development of the market in the United States, Canada, Britain and continental Europe up to 1975; make forecasts of future market growth; give some examples of the economics of the industry, including an outline of the Japanese motorcycle industry; and describe briefly the British and Japanese production system and Japanese production technology. House of Commons Paper 532-1, HMSO, £2·60. ISBN 0 10 009065 6.

Clothing Industry Scheme. Description of the scheme announced on 23 July (see p 352) for providing £20 million to assist re-organisation and restructuring in the clothing industry and to

encourage firms to increase productivity and efficiency. Department of Industry press notice, 15.10.75.

Inquiry into the Retailing Trades. A new series of annual, sample inquiries into the retailing trades in Great Britain in respect of their business carried out in 1976 is to be conducted by the Business Statistics Office (BSO) on behalf of the Department of Trade and other Government departments. The new system will replace the existing one of statistics based on periodic censuses. The inquiry will be based on the central register of business currently being developed by the BSO from VAT records. The availability of the register has enabled a scientific sample to be designed in which fewer than 30,000 businesses, out of some 300,000 within the scope of the inquiry, will be asked to complete returns. It is hoped that provisional results will be available by the end of 1977. Department of Trade press notice, 19.11.75.

New Advance Factory Programme. A new programme of 70 advance factories in England was announced in the House of Commons on 28 November by the Minister of State for Industry, Mr Gregor Mackenzie. The factories, which will be sited in the Assisted Areas throughout England, are expected to provide about 3,500 jobs and are estimated to cost about £9 million. *Hansard*, 28.11.75, written answers, cols 334-5.

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables 1974. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. HMSO Edinburgh, £1·15. ISBN 0 11 491354 4.

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1975. Institute of Geological Sciences, Natural Environment Research Council. HMSO, £6·50. ISBN 0 11 880734 X.

Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 1975. Department of Energy. HMSO, £6·60. ISBN 0 11 410241 4*.

Commercial Fast Breeder Nuclear Power Station. Sir Brian Flowers, chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, at present engaged on an inquiry into radiological safety with particular regard to possible environmental hazards from nuclear energy used in generating electric power, published a letter on 2 December addressed to the Prime Minister, together with the Prime Minister's reply. In it he presented arguments for pressing ahead 'on a reasonable time-scale' with a demonstration commercial fast breeder reactor power station. To do so would be to be better prepared for large-scale development of fast breeder reactors at a later stage, if this were considered necessary to Britain's power requirements. The purpose of such a station would be to see if hazards of such a programme could be acceptably small. It should be remotely sited and have its own fuel processing and fabrication plant to remove security risks of shipment of plutonium. In his reply the Prime Minister said that there was no question of the Government taking a very early decision on this matter and that it hoped to have the Royal Commission's report before doing so. Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution press release, 2.12.75; obtainable from the commission at Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BL.

Speed Limits. The temporary speed limits of 50 miles per hour (mph) on single carriageway roads and of 60 mph on dual carriageways other than motorways, introduced in December 1974 as one of the Government's energy conservation measures (see p 481, 1974), have been extended by Order until 30 November 1976. Consumption of motor spirit in the first half of 1975 was over 3 per cent lower than in the same period of 1973 after allowing for reductions in traffic, resulting in annual saving of about £40 million to Britain's balance of payments. The factors leading to lower consumption have included slower speeds, more careful driving behaviour and the growing use of smaller vehicles. *Hansard* 12.11.75, written answers, cols 686-8.

Airport Strategy for Great Britain. Part 1. The London Area. The ways in which civil aviation traffic might be handled up to the 1990s by airports in the London area are outlined in this consultative document, which follows preliminary consultations initiated after the abandonment of the project for a third London airport at Maplin (see pp 323-5, 1974). Consultations will be conducted jointly by the Department of Trade and the Department of the Environment. Department of Trade, HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 511679 6.

Channel Tunnel Project. Exchange of notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and The Government of the French Republic relating to the Abandonment of the Channel Tunnel Project (see pp. 73-4). Cmnd 6261. HMSO, 28p. ISBN 0 10 162610 X.

Garment and Allied Industries Requirements Board (GARB). The Department of Industry is to set up a board to help the garment and allied industries to strengthen their scientific and technological resources. The GARB is the eighth Requirements Board set up on the recommendation of the White Paper, *Framework for Government Research and Development* (Cmnd 5046, July 1972) (see p 486, 1972). It will work closely with the Government scheme for the support of the clothing and textile industries (see p 352). Department of Industry press notice 287, 6.11.75.

Corrosion Prevention Directory. Department of Industry. HMSO, £2·50. ISBN 0 11 511644 3.

Agricultural Research Council. Annual Report 1974-75. HMSO, £2. ISBN 0 10 200776 4.

Research, Wales. Second Report, 1974-75. Welsh Office, HMSO, 95p. ISBN 0 11 790066 4.

Dumping of Waste at Sea. Final Act of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Dumping of Waste at Sea (with Convention, Technical Memorandum and Resolution). Science and Technology,

Miscellaneous No 54 (1972). Cmnd 5169. HMSO, 30p. ISBN 0 10 151690 8. Reprinted with new price and code.

Social and Cultural Affairs

The Population of Britain. COI, R5616.

Census 1971: Great Britain. Household Composition Summary Tables (10 per cent Sample) Analyses households according to number and type of family, and contains information on the structure of the household. HMSO, £2·50. ISBN 0 11 690533 6.

Population Density and Concentration in Great Britain 1931, 1951, and 1961. (No 30 in a series of Studies on Medical and Population Subjects issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.) The study shows that, despite the overall population increase in Britain between 1931 and 1961, the population of many of the most densely populated areas fell. Comparisons of standard areas show that in 1961 central London was more than twice as densely populated as any other area of the same size. During the period of the study there was a narrowing down of the density range, with an increase of population living at a density of 40 to 50 persons per hectare and a fall in numbers living at both high and low densities. HMSO, £4·75. ISBN 0 11 690539 5.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Eleventh Report: Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 1975. Since its inception in August 1964 the board has paid £24·4 million in compensation to victims of crimes of violence in Great Britain. Cmnd 6291. HMSO, 45p. ISBN 0 10 162910 9.

Protection Against Vandalism. The report, submitted to the Home Office Standing Committee on Crime Prevention, states that vandalism in England and Wales costs the community tens of millions of pounds a year. Urgent steps to reverse this growing problem are urged, together with more precise recording and costing of acts of vandalism, substantial penalties against offenders or their parents, greater police surveillance and wider use of vandal-resistant material. Available free of charge from the Publicity Section of the Home Office Public Relations Department, Palace Chambers, 9 Bridge Street, London SW1.

Family Benefit and Pensions (Leaflet FB 1). Obtainable free of charge from the Department of Health and Social Security, Information Division Leaflets Unit, Block 4, Government Buildings, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.

Education in Britain. Addendum. COI, R4751.

Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1973. Includes statistics on schools, further education, teachers, universities, awards, libraries, building and expenditure. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 270406 9.

Statistics of Education, England and Wales, 1974. Vol 1 Schools. HMSO, £3·75. ISBN 0 11 270343 7.

Statistics of Education, England and Wales, 1973. Vol 3 Further Education. HMSO, £3·70. ISBN 0 11 270339 9.

CEE: Proposals for a New Examination. This second report of the Schools Council Joint Examinations Subcommittee (for the first see p 422) proposes a Certificate of Extended Education, awarded on the basis of courses and examinations suitable for young people who stay on at school after sixteen and for whom existing courses and examinations are unsuitable. Evans/Methuen Educational Ltd. £1·50. ISBN 0 423 47150 3.

Catering in Schools. Report by the Committee on Catering Arrangements in Schools (in England and Wales). HMSO, 75p. ISBN 0 11 270323 2.

Nutrition in Schools. Report of the Working Party on the Nutritional Aspects of School Meals (in England and Wales). HMSO, 50p. ISBN 0 11 270405 0.

Britain's Open University. COI, SN5923.

An Introduction to the Open University. A collection of fact sheets in a folder free from The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

The Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, which received Royal Assent on 12 November 1975, will make discrimination on grounds of sex or marriage unlawful in employment, training or related matters and sex discrimination unlawful in education and in the provision of housing and of goods, facilities and services to the public. Most of the provisions of the Act are to come into effect on 29 December 1975 (at the same time as the Equal Pay Act 1970) but the provisions relating to admissions to educational establishments are not effective till 1 September 1976. For further details see pp 165-7. HMSO, £1·50. ISBN 0 10 546575 5.

Housing Studies. The Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Reginald Freeson, announced on 7 November that he had commissioned the London-based firms of accountants and financial consultants, Messrs Binder Hamlyn Singleton Fabian, to carry out a study of the building finance situation and its effects, or possible effects, on the housebuilding industry. On 20 November Mr Freeson announced the setting up of a Working Group to consider new forms of social ownership, tenure and management of housing. The group would be asked to take account of the report by the Working Party on Housing Co-operatives (see p 43), which he hoped to publish in December. *Hansard,* 7.11.75, written answers, col 344, and 20.11.75, written answers, cols 6-7.

Government Decisions on Development Control Report. The Minister for Planning and Local Government, Mr John Silkin, said that the Government had completed consideration of the Dobry reports on the development control system (see pp 528, 1973; 71, 1974; and 118-9). Most of the recommendations (numbering over 100) had been

welcomed, and there was little dissent from Mr Dobry's general conclusion that the existing development control system was fundamentally sound. On two major recommendations, however, dealing with the division of planning applications into two separate categories subject to different statutory procedures and with the further control of demolition there had been a divergence of view and the Government did not propose to accept either of them. *Hansard*, 12.11.75, written answers, cols 704-5.

Inner Area Studies. These studies concentrate on areas of Birmingham, Lambeth and Liverpool and are concerned with improving the whole environment of inner city areas. Four further reports were published on 25 November (for earlier reports see pp 360, 1972; 297, 1974; 173 and 383):

Birmingham
IAS/B/6 Third Progress Report (£1·55);
IAS/B/7 Little Green: A Case Study in Urban Renewal (£2·15);
IAS/B/8 Fourth Progress Report (85p).

Liverpool
IAS/LI/8 Area Management and Progress Report (45p).

Copies may be purchased from the Department of the Environment, Room P2/127, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

The Lake District National Park. A guide, with maps and illustrations, edited by the Countryside Commission. HMSO, 85p. ISBN 0 11 700482 0.

The National Gallery. Report January 1973 – January 1975. Obtainable from National Gallery Publications Department, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. 70p.

Royal Opera House. Annual Report 1974-75. Obtainable from The House Manager, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7QA. 40p.

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